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Prayers for special days and
occasions

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL DAYS
AND OCCASIONS

Prayers for Special Days and Occasions

A TREASURY OF PRAYERS, EVANGELICAL AND
INTERDENOMINATIONAL, FOR ALL OCCASIONS,
BOTH SPECIAL AND REGULARLY RECURRING,
AND ALSO FOR VARIOUS DEDICATORY AND
OTHER CEREMONIES, FOR CERTAIN TIMES AND
SEASONS, SPECIAL OBJECTS AND PERSONS,
Etc., Etc.

FOR VOLUNTARY USE

Written and Compiled
by

REV. G. B. F. HALLOCK
M.A., D.D.



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FOREWORD

Here is a Pocket Manual of which we believe every pastor has long felt the need. It has grown directly out of long experience of lack of such a volume.

"Lord, teach us to pray," may well be the earnest cry of every minister whose responsibility is to lead his people in the devotions of the sanctuary. If careful attention ought to be given to the public reading of the Holy Scriptures and to the preparation and delivery of the sermon, what about the prayers that are offered, not to the people, but to God, not on the minister's behalf alone, but for the congregation? A young minister said to me, "It is not so hard to preach as to pray." Older preachers than that seminary student have had the same experience.

I believe that the average preacher greatly needs to study devotional material—to get out of his own stereotyped ruts, to ennoble and enlarge his conceptions, to purify his aspirations, and at the same time to chasten and elevate his prayer diction and vocabulary.

If this is important for the minister's regular ministrations, it is all the more important when special themes and occasions are considered. How difficult it is then to find choice and acceptable words in which to voice the petitions of the people, or on their behalf. It is hoped that this book will prove to ministers of all denominations a welcome aid toward the worthy conduct of public devotions, particularly for the many special days

and occasions and ceremonies when choice and careful expression is especially to be desired. Of course the book is intended mainly for suggestion and inspiration. Its use is purely voluntary. But we make bold to suggest that there are not a few times and occasions when petitions herein contained might well be woven into the more extended prayers in which the minister leads.

G. B. F. H.

*Brick Church,
Rochester, N. Y.*

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I. PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL DAYS AND OCCASIONS

NEW YEAR

CALLS TO WORSHIP

Many ministers use a Scriptural Salutation, or call to worship, at the opening of the public service. The following such are appropriate for the beginning of the New Year.

1. "AND SAMUEL took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

2. "HE THAT dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress: my God: in him will I trust."

3. "I WILL LIFT up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth."

4. "I WILL INSTRUCT thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go, I will guide thee with mine eye."

5. "SO TEACH us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

6. "I WILL LIFT up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord

which made heaven and earth." "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we bow before thee as the children of grace and love. Thy mercy has brought us through the year gone by. We thank thee for the assurance that fills our souls that the New Year will bring new mercies and new opportunities for service. Help us to enter into its gates with praise. Forgive the sins of the past. Purify our souls, and make our eyes keen and watchful, in order that we may discern thy purpose at every turning of the way. Help us to hallow all our circumstances whether they appear friendly or adverse, and may we subdue them all to thy holy will. We pray that during the coming year we may obtain new visions of the glory of Christ. May his gospel of grace become more exceedingly precious as we gaze into its unsearchable wealth. Let in the light as our eyes are able to bear it. Tell us some of the many things which are now withholden because we are not yet able to hear them. And wilt thou graciously grant us new possibilities of service. May we light lamps on many a dark road. May we give help to many a tired pilgrim who is burdened by the greatness of the way. May we give cups of refreshment to those who are thirsty and faint. Lead us on to the highest and best things; we ask in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. EVER-LIVING GOD, by whose mercy we have come to the gateway of another year; grant that we may enter it with humble and grateful hearts; and confirm

our resolution, we beseech thee, to walk more closely in thy way, and labor more faithfully, in thy service, according to the teaching and example of thy Son our Lord. Let not the errors and offenses of the past cling to us, but pardon us and set us free, that with a purer purpose and a better hope, we may renew our vows in thy presence, and set forth under the guidance of thy Spirit, to travel in that path which shineth more and more unto the perfect day of thy heavenly kingdom. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

3. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, God of time, God of eternity, with whom a thousand years are as one day and one day as a thousand years; we the children of a day would draw near to thee as we stand at the threshold of another year and seek thy guidance. Teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Help us to realize the infinite significance of life's opportunities. Give us calm minds, and courageous hearts, and contented spirits as we go forward to face the unknown experiences of the New Year. May we have in our own lives a great renewal; so that old duties may become fresh, and old affections ardent, and old aspirations filled with new power, and old faith abundantly satisfying. And above all, teach us to walk this year in trustful fellowship with thee. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

4. OUR DEAR heavenly Father, we thank thee for all that thou hast done for us in the year just finished. We thank thee for the successes we have had. And we thank thee, too, for the failures that we have overcome. May we take into this New Year many lessons from past successes and past failures. We have learned that true success comes only when we do thy will. Help us to

fill all our acts this New Year with the motive of service. We pray thee to help us to be a blessing to all we meet. And above all we pray that this New Year may be devoted to serving thee in our lives. This we ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

5. OUR FATHER and our God, at the threshold of a new year we draw near to thee with profound thankfulness for all thy bounties hitherto. We know not what awaits us. Thou knowest. Thou art the source and the sum of our life. We live in thee. Then whatever befalls it is well, and we are content. Father, so fill us with thy life that we shall rise above the boundaries of mere days and years, and fly free with thee in the higher atmosphere of truth and love and service without barrier or pause. But as we count up the months and years, make this new year to us better than any preceding one; that is, make us better. All the years are good; it is we that are infirm. Make us more Christly, more useful, more patient and gentle, more full of the fragrance and pungency of plain goodness. And then, if at the end of the year we are still in this world, let there be a wider wake of brightness trailing out behind us, studded with other lives that we have helped, in thy name and power. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

One should guard against sameness in offertory prayers. Meaning and impressiveness are gained by variety.

1. OUR FATHER! Thou hast nourished and kept us all the days of the past year and of our life and hast enriched us by thy grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Accept, we beseech thee, the offering of the morning, which we

bring thee in grateful dedication as the thank-offering of our hearts for the salvation thou hast freely given unto us in thine only begotten Son, our Saviour. *Amen.*

2. **THE BEST** we have, O God, is thine; the cattle on the hills, the fruitage of the fields, the product of the shops. Our time and our money also. Teach us that all these things have more of value when we know them as thine, more than when we call them our own. We would place under tribute to thy service what we have. Teach us how the material things of our life are hallowed when brought to thy house and used in thy kingdom. Put the touch of thine own hand in blessing upon it all, this New Year Sunday, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

3. **HELP US** to remember that now, as of old, the Son of Man looks upon a sorrowing and dying world with pity unutterable, and that he asks us to give the bread of life. Receive and bless the offerings we bring thee now to this end, and bless us as we bring them this New Year Sabbath. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

4. **WE ARE** thine. All that we have is thine. Of that which thou hast given us we bring to thee. Wilt thou graciously receive our offerings and use them to the extension of thy Kingdom in the earth. Bless us in bringing them. We ask in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

5. **ALL BEAUTIFUL** things are joined together for thy praise, O God. All useful things are in our hands for thy service. We find our happiness so often in making others happy. We find ourselves in losing ourselves. We find the heavenly in the bestowment and right use of the earthly. Show us, O God, how much this part of our service is woven into the very fabric of worship in thy house, and because our money is joined to our faith and our praise,

wilt thou bless what we offer that it may accomplish the end for which it was given us, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

6. OUR FATHER, we thank thee for the bounties with which we are daily surrounded. Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the wants of every living thing. Give us grateful hearts and generous hands. Receive and bless the offerings we bring thee now and use them for the extension of thy kingdom in the world. We ask in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. O GOD, before thee we look back over the year that is ending; and forward over the year that now begins. It is of thy mercy that we are alive, and of thy goodness that we have another chance to live better. We look back with sorrow and shame to our failures, our missings of the mark and the doing of things we ought not to have done, things that we meant not to do. We are ashamed at the breaking of thy holy laws, at our disregard of the laws of health and happiness and holiness, at our overwork and worry, our fatigue and inefficiency and impotence, our false ambitions and all selfish aims and low ideals and misspent endeavors. We ask thy forgiveness out of long experience with thy pity and knowledge of thy Fatherly love.

We look forward with hope born of that same experience with thee, our God. We have passed through a season made sacred by the birthday of thy Son, a time in which we forgot ourselves and thought more of others' happiness than our own; and joy came to us like a prayer that rhymes. Make us to remember that it was by doing for others that we entered into the joy of our Lord. May we not drop back to lower levels and forget

the high standard of generosity and thoughtfulness we set for ourselves. We live by giving, and we want to live. Teach us how to live, O God, a large, full, joyous life.

Not only for our own joy do we pray, but that we may add joy to the lives of others. We pray that we may help and not hinder, heal and not hurt; we pray that virtue may go out from us and make whole lives that are broken and marred. O God, we do not want to go through the world and leave it no better; we want to be of use. We want that no needy soul to whom we could mean anything should pass us by in vain. We want that everyone may find our hand open and our heart responsive and kind. It may not be much that we can do. It may be only a cup of cold water we can give to the thirsty, a word of appreciation and cheer to the discouraged, a little sympathy and understanding to one in need of these, but may we do it for love's sake, so that it shall become a sacrament to thee, our God.

Bless us in this life, we pray thee, with peace of our conscience, command of our affections, and the love of thyself and of our friends. Give us a deliberate cheer and peace of mind. Give us a buoyancy of spirit, courage and hope. May we find that quietness and confidence which shall be our strength.

Grant us the abiding help and counsel of thy Holy Spirit. Make us obedient to thy will. Give us courage to go forward when thou callest. We ask not for tasks equal to our strength but for strength equal to our tasks, that we may know the daily miracle of doing the impossible. May we not love familiar ways too much, or dread the changes that must come to us all. May we travel as ship-captains travel, by night as by day, guided by far-away stars. May we be conscious of invisible forces of good working for us and in us, and may thy peace that pass-

eth understanding garrison our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

2. THOU ETERNAL Presence, by whose grace we live, we who walk a dim path through unknown years pray for light, lest we wander into a tangled way. May we be of those who, willing to do thy will, know the truth that maketh the soul free from the error that blinds, the doubt that darkens, and the fear that weakens.

Amidst so much that is fleeting, we bless thee for the things that abide—for the guidance of the great Hand in which we stand; for the Faith that grows, the Love that deepens, and the Hope that unfolds; for the Ideal that beckons us to a life of honor and service; for the dear love of friends and comrades; and for the holy voices whispering in our hearts. For the wonder of life, and for its shadows, too, we humbly praise thee, knowing that thou leadest us in ways we know not, and that to follow is to learn why.

Hear the prayer of one who needs thee in behalf of many who have a like want and longing; for we can not carry our burdens, day by day, without thy help. We pray for our brethren who are in great sorrow, for those who are discouraged, for those in the House of Pain, and for all who walk a shadowy way in the loneliness which death makes when it passes by. We pray for those who can not trust the highest, because they are haunted by something lower than the best; for those at odds with the world and at war with their own hearts.

Of whom else can we ask so much now, at the opening of this New Year, assured that he is willing and able to do more than we can ask or think? Complete our spiritual endeavors; fulfill our imperfect and struggling good. At last, having walked the human way, brothers and

builders, let us stand upright at thy door, looking to see the Face long desired, the Face of unutterable Love, and the bright forms we have lost in the midst of the years. We ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "BLESSED is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

2. "MOREOVER thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such men over them."

3. "THUS saith the high and lofty One who inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy. I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and the heart of the contrite."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who by thy providence doth lead to positions of trust and responsibility, we thank thee for the rugged honesty, the fidelity and manliness that were manifested in the life of our martyred President Lincoln. Help us to appreciate the liberty and the unity he upheld and to give to our country the service of unselfish lives. Make us, like him, true lovers of our Fatherland. Help us to keep the promise our country has made to the world, the promise to be the home of freedom and brotherhood and justice for all. Help us in our lives to keep this promise. Help us in our happiness and in our strength to keep in mind the

pleasures and rights of others. Make us individually and as a people to be brave and truthful and fair. Keep us in our successes free from boasting and conceit. Help all our people to become noble and great-hearted citizens, an honor to our nation and a spring of hope to our neighbors. Graciously hear our prayer and accept us, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast brought us once again to thy house of worship and communion. Wilt thou graciously inspire in us all the spirit of true devotion. Deliver us from the bondage of cold formality. Raise us from the depths of indifference. Turn our lukewarmness into fervor and our lack of appetite to a great hunger for thy truth. Forgive our sins. Cleanse our hearts. Renew our wills. Exalt our purposes. Give us new strength to battle against evil and new power to overcome. We would be filled with thee and be ever at home with thee—at home in fellowship with thee. Our fundamental hunger is for thee. Enrich us all with thy constant indwelling and with the sense of thy love. We ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. WE THANK thee, Lord, for the habit of worship. We ask for the right spirit of worship. May we receive more than we expect. Come into our souls through those doorways that open only to thee. We come with a sense of sin, yet with the glorious consciousness that we are made only a little lower than the angels. We would worship thee who art a spirit in spirit and in truth, in the beauty of holiness. Accept us and our worship, we ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. MERCIFUL GOD, who art above all and from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, may we worship thee with thankful hearts because of thy favors to us as individuals and as a nation. Teach us our dependence upon thee in all things, and make us ready to acknowledge thy right in us and in all we control. Direct us, we beseech thee, in honoring the Lord with our substance and in bringing to him that true devotion of heart which makes us wholly his, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. WE ADD to our offering, O Lord, our prayer that it may become more useful in building thy Kingdom by virtue of thy blessing being given unto it, for we remember that of old a very small portion of bread was by thy blessing made to serve a great multitude. Receive and bless our offering. We ask through Christ. *Amen.*

3. O MASTER of the way of life, free us from the passion for pleasure as the way to joy. Help us to seek out and serve others who lack the abundant life which thou dost give. Give us this day a deeper experience of thy delivering love that we may bear it to some other seeking and impoverished soul. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR FATHER, we rejoice in the great souls whom thou hast given to us as a people. Thou hast apportioned to us a great land, a goodly heritage, among the nations of the earth. We have entered upon our inheritance and possessed it. But more than all the treasures of the sea and of the land, thou hast enriched us by noble lives, by

men of clear vision, of high courage, of steadfast devotion to freedom and justice and truth, men like Abraham Lincoln, whom we remember to-day. We thank thee for all who have loved righteousness better than life; for those who have counted nothing dear to them when the rights of their fellow-men have been invaded. For all the lovers and seers and martyrs of liberty and peace and good-will among men, we give thee thanks. Forbid, our Father, that the vision that enlightened and kindled their hearts should ever grow dim to our eyes. Forbid that the straight and narrow path which they trod should ever seem too hard for us, and we turn aside into byways of ease and self-seeking. Touch our eyes, we pray thee, to behold the glory and the strength of thy prophets while they are yet alive, that we may take their words as accents of thine own Spirit, that we may follow in their footsteps with joyful obedience. Deliver us, our Father, from the folly of the nations which have loved riches and luxury and the transient glory of power. Save us from that blindness and madness of the people who have believed in force for safety, and have taken the sword for defense and aggression. According to thy law, they who have taken the sword have perished by the sword. Help us to believe in the sufficiency and eternity of righteousness. May we follow with believing hearts and victorious spirits Jesus Christ whom thou hast given, who is this day going forth among the nations, conquering and to conquer by the might of his goodness and truth and the beauty of his holiness. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "O COME, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand."

2. "THE ANGEL of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

3. "Thus saith the Lord: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions, and as a cloud thy sins. Return unto me, for I have redeemed thee. And ye shall seek and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

INVOCATION PRAYER

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we thank thee that in the dark hours of our national life thou didst raise up thy servant, the First President of the United States, to be a leader and deliverer. Help us to keep in memory his exalted patriotism, his official integrity and his wise statesmanship. May these qualities be incentives and influences that shall be exerted upon generations to come. We bless thee for the great things thou hast done

and art doing for the children of men. We consider the days of old, the years of ancient times, and unto thee do we give thanks. We give thee special praise for the wonderful grace and virtue manifested in all those, thy children, who have been the lights of the world in their several generations. For raising up thy servant, George Washington, and giving him to be the leader and commander of the people; for vouchsafing to him victory over kings, and for bestowing upon him many excellent gifts; for inclining the hearts of men in Congress assembled to wise choices, and for granting them vision of the days to come; for a settled constitution, and for equal laws; for freedom to do the thing that is right, and liberty to say the truth; for the spread of knowledge everywhere among us, and for the preservation of the faith, we bless and magnify thy Holy Name, humbly beseeching thee to accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ our only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. OUR FATHER, make us worthy to receive the bounties of thy goodness; and make us worthy to contribute to the greatest cause on earth. And add thy benediction to our offering, for without thy blessing all we say and do will never feed a hungry soul. Through Christ our Lord we ask. *Amen.*

2. FOR THY gracious care, O Lord, during our past and the time past of our nation and for the fruits of our labors we humbly thank thee. We acknowledge our trusteeship and bring to thy house our gifts on this first day of the week, according as Thou hast prospered us. Enable us to give thee, with our gifts, the love of our

hearts and the service of our lives. May thy favor, which is life, and thy blessing, which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow, be upon us always, we beseech thee, in Christ's name. *Amen.*

3. THINE O Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in heaven and in earth is thine. Riches and honor come of thee. Thou alone hast enabled us to offer thee these gifts of our love. All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee. In uprightness of heart and with joy have we willingly brought our offerings. Graciously use them, we beseech thee, to build thine house among all peoples, until thy perfect will shall everywhere be done and thy kingdom come. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

DEAR GOD and Father, we thank thee for the wisdom that cometh from above, that in the hour of human need thou hast raised up men to lead the way with courage and confidence learned from thee. We thank thee for all the great and good men and women of the past, the master spirits of time. We thank thee that the way has never been so dark that thou couldst not illumine it if only some man put his trust in thee; and no way so rough that thou didst not smooth its roughness to him who walked by faith in thee. We thank thee for all those through whom thou hast brought deliverance and hope to mankind.

We thank thee for those who have labored and we have entered into their labor; for those who have lived and died for their country, for liberty and for thee; for those who have passed on the torch of truth to us. May

we bear it high and far, and may our children bear it higher still for a better and juster world. May we take increased devotion and carry forward the work. May our hearts be pure and kind and never the home of meanness or hate or fear. May our sons be strong, good men and our daughters be women whose is the white flower of a blameless life. And may they be parents of an even better generation of men and women.

We pray for all rulers and leaders and law-makers everywhere. We pray that the men who have grown up in an old world may not be unresponsive to the hopes and aspirations of a new world; that they may feel the reality of mankind's longing for peace and that the curtailment of weapons of war may lead to a time when war shall be no more. We thank thee for the progress that has been made, and pray that the world may not be content till its dream of peace is fully realized and men forget the art of war. And may thy Kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PALM SUNDAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "LIFT UP your heads, O ye gates, even lift them up ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of Hosts, he is the King of Glory."

2. "AND the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying: Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

3. "ENTER into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise, be thankful unto him and bless his name; for the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O LORD Jesus Christ, who on this day didst enter the rebellious city where thou wast to die, enter into our hearts, we beseech thee, and subdue them wholly to thyself. And as thy faithful disciples blessed thy coming, and spread their garments in the way, covering it with palm branches, may we be ready to lay at thy feet all that we have and are, and to bless thee, O thou who comest in the name of the Lord. And grant that after having confessed and worshipped thee upon the earth, we may be

among the number of those who shall hail thine eternal triumphs, and bear in their hands the palms of victory, when every knee shall bow before thee, and every tongue confess that thou art Lord, and that thou shalt reign for ever and ever. We ask in thine own holy name. *Amen.*

2. O LORD Jesus, Son of the living God, Maker and Redeemer of the world, who for us men and for our salvation wast pleased to come down from heaven to take our flesh, and to undergo thy passion; and who, of thine own will, when approaching the place of thy passion didst deign to be blessed and to be praised and to be hailed as a King blessed and coming in the name of the Lord, receive now the service of our praises, and may we be counted worthy to attain the remission of sins and the rewards of everlasting life; through thee, O Saviour Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THOU GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we rejoice in his message and personality which reveal thee to us and bring thee near. Fix our gaze on him, that thus we may know thee. This is the day of palms, the one day of thy earthly triumph. From the cradle to the cross we would follow thee, Lord Jesus, that we may learn how to live. Disclose to us thy secret of a righteous and blessed life. Unfold to us the privileges, the high possibilities, the divine skill and power of which we are appointed to partake. Keep us from narrow views and low aims. Awaken us to thrilling aspirations. School us to feel the electric touch of the Infinite One at every contact with men and things. Show us how to walk the

common path with reverent tread and high expectancy. Open our eyes to behold thy messengers in the people we meet, and unstop our ears to catch thy messages amid the din that assails us. So attune our souls to truth that its music shall reach and guide us moment by moment. We would see thy face shining, Lord, in the face of friend and foe, and know thy presence in the pulsing life that throbs around us. So fill us with Christly sympathy that the pressure of the crowd shall prove a heavenly visitation. Deaden our antipathies; uproot our dislikes; rebuke our censoriousness; weed out our grudges; stimulate our affinity for the unlikely; our appreciation of the uncouth and unwelcome, our sense of God in the very vagrant. Keep us from measuring people by their value to us, and constrain us to measure them by their worth to thee. Make us wealthy in usefulness, in friendship won, in filial trust and brotherly love; so affluent in divine grace that no losses of money or of health can make us feel poor; so radiant with thine indwelling that no mishap can becloud our sky or make us unpleasant companions to those we meet. We ask all in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

GOOD FRIDAY

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. ASSIST US mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers while we call to memory thy Passion and also thy great love. O our Lord Jesus, who didst endure the cross and despise the shame, we beseech thee to draw us to thyself through thy holy passion and death. We bless thee for drinking this bitter cup for our sakes. We praise thee for accepting such sorrow of soul and agony of body to save us from everlasting death. Reveal to us the power of the cross in drawing our souls from earthly things. By it may we be dead to the world and the world dead to us. By it may our hatred of sin be deepened and our love for thee increased. Hear us, blessed Saviour, who art, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, worthy of all praise, world without end. *Amen.*

2. THROUGH DAYS of controversy, misunderstanding, suffering and death, our Saviour, we would follow thee in careful and reverent meditation. May the matchless beauty of thy character and the great lessons of thy life come to us with rich unfolding of meaning.

As thou wert strong to suffer, O Christ, so give unto us, thy followers, needed strength in hours of weariness, pain and conflict. As thou wert patient, our Master, amid misunderstanding and scorn, so impart unto us the grace of patience.

Thou, O Christ, in the glory of submission, involving the very agony of death, didst seek to do the will of thy Father. May this impressive lesson of thy life, as we shall study it during these days, lead us to pray for thy will to be done in our lives. May we be loving, dutiful, sacrificing servants of thine, O our Saviour, ever worthy of thee. *Amen.*

3. LORD JESUS CHRIST, thou holy and spotless Lamb of God, who didst take upon thyself our sins, and bear them in thy body on the cross; we bless thee for all the burdens thou hast borne, for all the tears thou hast wept, for all the pains thou hast suffered, for all the words of comfort thou hast spoken from the cross, for all thy conflicts with the powers of darkness, and for thine eternal victory over death and hell. With the host of the redeemed, we ascribe unto thee power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE SEVEN WORDS—PRAYERS

First Word. "Father Forgive"

1. O PATIENT Lord, who in thy bitter pain didst pray for those who persecuted thee, saying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," give us thy spirit. Deliver us from revenge and vindictiveness. May we freely and promptly forgive others, even as we hope to be ourselves forgiven of thee. Save us also, O God, from the sins of ignorance, and especially from those that would bring reproach upon thy Son, our holy Redeemer and Master. And O Lord Jesus Christ, who enduredst the cross and despisedst the shame, draw us to thyself. Be-

cause of that compassion which thou didst manifest upon the cross in extending forgiveness to those who crucified thee, may we never doubt thy mercy. May our sins never keep us from turning to thee who art ever ready to receive all who truly repent. We ask in thy dear name. *Amen.*

2. O God, our Father, and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we thank thee for thy love at all times which follows us even when, as prodigal sons, we go astray, or when we rebel against thee.

We thank thee that there is forgiveness with thee; that if we confess our sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Above all, do we thank thee this day for that perfect love and perfect forgiveness which was manifested in Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who prayed, even in his agony upon the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Help us, O God, so to enter into the spirit of his life and death this day that we, also, may be able to pray for our enemies, not only because we have learned of him that unless we forgive men their trespasses thou wilt not forgive our trespasses, but because we, like him, have learned to love all men and to seek the salvation of every lost soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Second Word. "To-day"

1. O LORD Jesus, full of grace and truth, who being crucified between two thieves, didst promise one of them, believing on thee, and confessing thee, the fruition of paradise, look upon us with the eye of pity wherewith thou didst behold the repentant one, pardon us freely, and grant us at last to hear thy blessed word, "Today

shalt thou be with me in paradise." Give us, we pray, the spirit of true repentance that we may both confess and forsake our sins and be filled with the joy of thy great forgiveness. We ask through thine own blessed name. *Amen.*

2. OUR FATHER in heaven, we thank thee that there is room in thy Kingdom for all who will turn from sin and seek salvation; that "whosoever will, may come."

Grant, O God, that when the hour of our death shall come to us, we may be among those whom the Master will come again to receive unto himself. So bless the preaching of thy word, also, we pray, that all who live in sin may turn to thee in humble penitence ere the day of grace be ended, and that they, too, may share the blessings of that eternal day in paradise, with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

3. O LORD, we thank thee that thou dost speak to us as unto sons. May we speak unto thee as unto our Father, and always think of thee as such, and give thee reverence in all the various dealings of thy hands, that we may get the profiting which thou dost intend, and so may truly live. Help us to lay aside every weight, and every sin, and to run with patient perseverance the race that is set before us. May we carry Christ in our hearts, and set him before our eyes, that we may tread in his footsteps and follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. Grant, O God, that when the hour of our death shall come to us, we may be among those whom the Master will come again to receive unto himself. So bless the preaching of thy word, also, we pray, that all who live in sin may turn to thee in humble penitence ere the day of grace be ended, and that they, too, may share the blessings of that eternal day in paradise, with Jesus

Christ, our Lord and Saviour, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Third Word. "Woman, Behold"

1. O SYMPATHIZING Jesus, who amidst the agonies of the cross wast mindful of thy sorrowing mother, commending her to the care of thy beloved disciple, saying, "Woman, behold thy son," give us grace to be a comfort to our parents in their sorrows, and to follow thee as a pattern in all things. Fill us with a spirit of tenderness toward the parents who have watched over us and cared for our every want. Bless our homes. Help us as members in households faithfully to fulfill our duties there and to one another. Put far from us all unkind thoughts, anger and evil speaking. Give us tender hearts, full of affection and sympathy towards all. Grant us grace to feel the sorrows and trials of others as our own, and to bear patiently with their imperfections. O God, preserve us from selfishness and grant that day by day, walking in love, we may grow into the likeness of thy blessed Son, and be found ready to meet and enter with him into that home he has gone to prepare for us and for all who love him. We ask this in his name. *Amen.*

2. WE THANK thee, O God, for the revelation of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whom we have seen and felt thy love. We thank thee for his life of perfect love toward thee. We thank thee for his perfect love for his earthly mother—the love that has sanctified beyond compare the relationship of motherhood. Grant us all needed grace, we beseech thee, so to live that we may honor our own parents, even as thou hast commanded us to do, and that by loving ministries to our earthly loved ones we may show forth our love toward thee, and

toward our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto these . . . ye have done it unto me." *Amen.*

Fourth Word. "My God, Why"

1. GRACIOUS LORD and Saviour, who didst suffer unutterable woe when for a time thou wast forsaken of thy Father, help us to feel the enormity of our sins which brought thee this sorrow. May the graciousness of thy pardon of our transgressions lead us to repentance and gladly to accept the great salvation thou hast prepared for us. Make us strong by thy suffering. Make us to love thee with all our hearts. Grant that we, being penitent, may crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, and may we be constrained by thy love to live henceforth to thy glory. We ask in thy most holy name. *Amen.*

2. LORD, THOU hast taught us that only our sin can separate us from thee and thy loving providences. Make us to understand that when the consciousness of sin causes us to feel that we are shut out from thy presence and thy favor, it is not that thy love has ceased to follow us out to the sin-hills of the world, but that sin has robbed us of a sense of thy presence and the assurance that all is well with our souls. We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Restore us, we pray from our wandering. Bring us back to the Good Shepherd and to his fold. Give us again a real sense of thine abiding presence in our hearts and lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, from whose love neither life nor death nor any other creature can separate us. *Amen.*

Fifth Word. "I Thirst"

1. O JESUS Christ, who didst bear pain and thirst for our sakes, grant that through the power of thy holy passion our sins may be blotted out. May we thirst for thee and for the righteousness which thou alone canst give. O grant, by that cup of sorrow which thou didst drink for us, and by that weary path which thou didst tread, that we may willingly drink of thy cup, and cheerfully follow thee along the road where thou hast gone before; who with the Father and the Holy Ghost now reignest one God, world without end. *Amen.*

2. OUR FATHER, we believe thy Word. As we look upon the sufferings of our Lord and Saviour, we believe that he was wounded for our transgressions; that he was bruised for our iniquities; that the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and that with his stripes we are healed. O Lord, our Saviour, we hide, as it were, our faces from thee, bowed down by grief at the thought that it was because of our sin and for our salvation that thou didst suffer on the cross.

O Lord, in mercy grant us thy grace so to believe and so to live that these, thy sufferings, may not have been borne in vain; but that we may be redeemed from its penalties, from the thought of sin and from its guilty stain.

Help us, also, we pray, so to bear our own sufferings and "our light afflictions which are but for a season," that we may show forth our patience in suffering and our faith that thou makest all things to work together for the good of them that love thee. Be with us and help us in our every hour of suffering and trial, both of body and of soul, and give us victory and peace, for thy name's sake. *Amen.*

Sixth Word. "It Is Finished"

1. WE PRAISE thee, O our God, for the finished work of thy Son, and that in him thy promises had their fulfillment. May we love and accept him in his humanity and divinity as God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God. We magnify thee that there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. We desire to trust in him alone for our salvation, to depend on him as our only Saviour. Accept us in him, thy Beloved. And may we love and serve him all the days of our lives. We ask through riches of grace in him, thy Son and our Saviour. *Amen.*

2. FATHER, we thank thee for a salvation which is complete and able to save to the uttermost. We thank thee, O Christ, for thy victory over every temptation to turn aside from that path which led to Gethsemane and to Calvary. We thank thee for that complete submission to the Father's will which could say, "Not my will but thine be done." We thank thee for that close adherence to the Father's plan and purpose which enabled thee to say at the last, "It is finished." O God, may we never look away from the cross unto others; may we never hope to be saved through any work or merit of our own. Help us to understand and believe that our salvation was wrought out on Calvary's cross, and that as we work out our own salvation from day to day with fear and trembling, we do not work aright unless we permit thee to work in us that which was made perfect and complete upon the cross. Grant, O Lord, that we, also, may so gain the victory over sin and temptation that at the end, we, too, may say, "It is finished" . . . "I have fought a good fight; I have fin-

ished the course; I have kept the faith," through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Seventh Word. "Into Thy Hands"

1. O IMMORTAL Jesus, who, when thou hadst pleased to die, didst bow thy head and commend thy spirit into the hands of thy Father, grant that when the hour of our departure shall come, we may be willing to leave this mortal life, and thou being present to our sight, and shining upon us with the light of thy countenance, we may joyfully commit our souls to thee, who art the Resurrection and the Life; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

2. "LORD, THOU hast made us for thyself, and our restless spirits cannot be at peace until they rest in thee." As the Saviour lived continually in thy presence, so we would live. As he committed his soul at the last into thy hands, so would we commit our souls into thine eternal keeping. Keep us evermore, we pray thee, in the hollow of thy hand, so that we may not depart from thee, but that throughout life's day we may walk with thee, and that when we come to the end of the journey, we shall find that "at eventide it shall be light" because we have journeyed with him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Father, into thy hands we commend our spirits. We know that thou art able to guard that which we have committed unto thee against that day in which we meet our Calvary. Keep us in that hour from falling, and present us faultless before thy presence with exceeding joy, through redeeming faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who died that we may be dead to sin, and rose again that we may be born unto everlasting life. *Amen.*

EASTER

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "THANKS be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. "AWAKE, thou that sleepest, arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light." "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

3. "BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

4. "IF YE then be risen with Christ, seek those things that are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. "O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father, give unto us that we may know Jesus. May we know him in his life, that we may be in the world, as he was in the world, going about doing good. May we know him in his death, that we may not glory save in his cross, being crucified with him. May we know him in his resurrection, that we may rise with him to the newness of the resurrection life, living not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. May we know him in his

ascension, that we may experience his intercession, having our conversation with him in heaven. May we know him in the coming of his Spirit, that we may be endued with power from on high to bear witness unto him wherever he doth send us. May we know him in his coming in glory, that we may not be found sleeping in our sins, but awake and rejoicing in his praises and prepared, with him, to enter into the banquet of eternal life. So may we daily increase in union with him, and become more and more like unto him, until we are changed into his perfect image, and presented faultless before his face in the day of his appearing. We ask in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

2. UNTO THEE, O Christ, who hast conquered death and risen again, be glory evermore! Light of the world, splendor of the Father's presence, Son of Man in humility of self-devotion, Son of God in power, thy risen life is the assurance of our victory. From our low estate, compassed with weakness, made subject to the death of the body, we look up with grateful and exultant hearts to thee. Thou hast tasted death for every man, and risen again from thy humiliation into glory. As thou hast called us to be one with thee in suffering, so lead us through experience of thy help in trial to the triumph of thy risen and eternal life. Rid us of all absorbing love of earth, and all bondage to the fear of death. Purify our hearts by the indwelling of thy Spirit, that we may wait thy coming with expectant joy. And to God most High, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, be praise for evermore. *Amen.*

3. ETERNAL and most Holy God, we humbly pray that we may now experience the power of the resurrection. May we know that our Saviour is alive because

we ourselves are lifted from the death of sin. Lead us out of the graves of passion and worldliness into the life and light of the Lord.

Help us to rise above everything that is mean and selfish to the glorious life of the saints. Mercifully deliver us from every unclean thing that holds us captive. Especially do we ask that thou wilt redeem us from the evils which appear small but which hold us in captivity. Save us from every form of vanity and pride. Deliver us from the lust of display. May we be more concerned to receive honor of God than of man. Impart unto us a spirit of simplicity and lowliness, so that we may apprehend thy glory. Set our minds upon things that are above. May we find that even now it is possible for us to live in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Let the light of thy presence fall upon our road. Even now in this service may we behold thy strength and beauty. Break up our indifference. Wake us out of perilous sleep and may we become children of light, even as thou art in the light. We ask in his name. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. ETERNAL GOD, thou who hast been our hope through all the years; thy word has been a sure comfort. May we evidence to the world that we are steadfast in our loyalty to thee, O God. To this end receive and bless our offerings this Easter morning. Use them for the extension of thy kingdom in the world. Use us, we pray, and abide thou in our inner lives, through Christ. *Amen.*

2. O God, who didst bring again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, we praise thee that Christ hath brought life and im-

mortality to light through the Gospel. We thank thee for the joy of the Easter-tide and for the Christian's assurance of immortality. These are gifts of inestimable value, beside which the offerings we bring are utterly insignificant. Yet we praise thee that thou dost encourage us to bring of our first-fruits an offering to the Lord. Receive it, O God, for the sake of our crucified and risen Lord. *Amen.*

3. O THOU who art the resurrection and the life, thou Christ divine, we reverence thee. One with us thou wast in the days of thy pilgrimage. One with us thou wast when the tomb claimed thee. One with God thou art in the exaltation at his right hand. For us there is life in thy life; there is resurrection from the dead in thy resurrection. Hear us, we pray, as we bring our offerings and pray that thou wilt use them to bless the world. Let our Easter day be the glad token of immortal life and deathless bloom even for us, O Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. ETERNAL FATHER, thou art infinite in power, infinite in wisdom, infinite in holiness, infinite in love. Thou art more vast than our every thought of thee. Yet thou dost invite and encourage us to come to thee in prayer. And the surge of immortality within us—the upward reach of our essential being—brings us to thee, O God! The mystery, the wonder, the glory of this communion we do not understand, but the experience of this exalted privilege we claim and exercise with inexpressible joy. We thank thee for the central truth of our being—"made in the image of God"! We bless thy holy name for every note in the glad

Evangel of Jesus Christ. We praise and magnify thy name for the revelations thou hast given us in a risen Christ—revelations of thyself, revelations of ourselves. As we pray and meditate in the presence of our Saviour, with the radiant life of the resurrection upon his face, our hearts leap with joy. "He hath brought life and immortality to light." In his resurrection he has underwritten and guaranteed the endless future of his friends. His words fall upon our souls like coined life! "Because I live, ye shall live also." With courage and faith we look to the dissolution of the body because we believe that "when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" Strengthened by the contemplation of the glorious, eternal issue of our relationship to our risen Lord we pray that we may be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord," for we know, through faith in him, that our "labor is not in vain in the Lord." Help us to give ourselves unto thee, O God, in a new and larger dedication for the promotion of thy kingdom to the ends of the earth, we ask in the Name that is above every name—even the Name of Jesus. *Amen.*

2. ETERNAL FATHER, thou knowest what is in all our hearts—the questions that haunt betimes, the longings that make us pensive, the partings that leave us forlorn. Teach us the mighty truth that thou livest in us and we in thee, in whom there is no death, but only life forevermore. Make us aware that in the Shadow of

Life there hides a Love greater than we can think or know, and that it hath in its keeping the loves and fellowships of our mortal years. May this vision abide in our hearts and grow, until the deep wounds of parting are healed in the assurance of reunion.

Since thou hast given us this hope, purify us and make us worthy of its promise. Search us this day, O Lord; cleanse us of all that is unholy and untrue, that we may not be unworthy of those who live in thy clearer presence. We do not ask to see what thou hast veiled from us here below, but only that no stain of sin or shame may blur in us a hope which turns our sorrow into prayer. This must be in accord with thy wise and holy will, whatever else thy wisdom may hide from us for our greater good.

Lord, in thy loving-kindness we trust, content to toil in the fields of time, awaiting the will of him who is able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or dream. Unto him be the praise of our obedience, and the thanksgiving of our love, until the morning dawns. In his name. *Amen.*

3. WE THANK thee, O Lord, for the faith which overcometh the world. We thank thee for victory over life with its disappointments, its failures and its separations; that the dominant note of life is joy and its mightiest force is love and its last word is hope. We thank thee that in many a gray morning we have seen the stone rolled away from the heart sepulchers and an angel sitting on it; so that the sorrow and loss which seemed to have closed down upon us was not only rolled back but glorified, and what seemed an irreparable loss has become a guide or genius. We thank thee for the victory over life.

We thank thee, too, for the victory over death; that the tomb cannot hold our dead nor the grave enclose our beloved. We know not how thou dost bring them forth. We know not how thou canst lead these broken lives and severed loves of ours to the fulfillment they demand, but all we know of love in ourselves, all we see of it in other human hearts, makes us confident that thou wilt this fulfillment, and what thou wilt thou canst. Thine, O Lord, is the victory.

We thank thee that in the light of Easter even death, that was the king of terrors, has become a hallowed thing, the answer to our prayers for life, more life and fuller. Help us to think of death not as the end of being but as its true beginning; not as a wall against which we dash our heads but as a door opening to a larger room of the Father's house, a room prepared for us and made home-like by those who have gone before. Give us the sure faith that looks beyond the grave and trusts the larger hope. May we trust faith more than sight, for our eyes have deceived us and things are not what they seem. But faith is what thou hast writ into the heart of man.

We thank thee that when thy children die it is into a Father's hand they commit their spirits, and that in thy hands they are safe. We thank thee for all our great and noble dead who have enriched the world evermore and being dead yet speak to us. We pray that the work they have passed on to us may be taken up and carried forward with a will, and may we walk from day to day as those who are engaged with affairs of eternity.

Strengthen thou, O Lord, the heart of those who weep by new-made graves and by graves that seem

opened but yesterday though years have passed over them. Let none linger where they left their dead. May a voice speak to them in the garden and say, "Not here! Risen! Alive for evermore!" *Amen.*

SPRINGTIME

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "SERVE the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with a song. Know ye that the Lord he is God: and it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture."

2. "BLESSED are they that dwell in thy house, they will be still praising thee."

3. "O SING unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O THOU infinite Life, from whom we have come forth and in whom we live and move and have our being, thou Father of our spirits who art "closer to us than breathing; nearer than hands and feet," we would begin this holy day with a deep sense of gratitude to thee and of reverence for ourselves. On this glorious spring morning make us glad that we are alive, and that we are living in a world so full of wonder, of beauty and of inspiration. Be thou the Great Companion of our lives this day and all the days. May we see thee in every person we meet and find thee in every experience that meets us. May we get the very utmost out of this day by putting our very best of

mind and heart into all its worships, its privileges and its tasks. May our minds be so filled with good thoughts and our hands so busy with kindly deeds that there shall be no room in our lives for anything unworthy of ourselves or harmful to others. May we find happiness not in seeking it, but in bringing happiness to others, especially to those who stand closest to us. So may we live this day for its own sake as if it were a life complete in itself, and when the day is done may we fall asleep in the consciousness that we have honestly tried to share the spirit and follow the example of him who is the Master of life. In his name we ask. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that by thy providence we are privileged to meet again in thy house of prayer this glorious spring morning. May we come into thy presence in the multitude of thy mercies. Tune our hearts to sing thy praise. Quicken all our powers so that the full strength of our being may be used in thy holy worship. Deliver us, we humbly pray thee, from all pretense, and from being contented with the mere appearance of devotion. Let thy light fall upon our souls and reveal to us the depth of our need. Forgive our sins. Cleanse our hearts. Exalt our aims. Strengthen our purposes of good. Unveil to us also the glory of our inheritance that we may see the height of our calling. May thy Spirit minister to us so that our penitence may be sincere and our aspirations fervent. We thank thee that in this house men and women have been born again. We bless thee that here blind eyes have been opened, the faltering have been steadied, and the troubled have found consolation. May these miracles of thy grace be repeated to-day. We ask in the name of Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THOU ETERNAL God, we rejoice in thy power and goodness. We are grateful for the bounty of thy hand. Thou dost give us of the sunshine and rain from heaven, the food and raiment of earth, and the love of thine own heart in Jesus Christ. We can never give as thou givest, but teach us to give gladly, to give largely of our best. May our giving to thee be a part of our life. Joining our toil and our homes all up with our worship and service in thy house. May heaven and earth be brought near together in our gifts for thy name's sake. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. OUR FATHER in heaven, we thank thee for the summer with its ripening grain, the autumn with its golden plenty, the winter with its fertilizing snows, and the spring time with its blossoming flowers. All the seasons are gifts from thee, each has its peculiar place in thy divine economy. The spring has its possibilities, the summer its opportunities, the autumn its privileges and the winter its responsibilities. We love them all, may we improve them all as thou wouldst have us do. May we sow, cultivate, gather and dispense for thy glory. May we learn to appreciate every day, and faithfully to perform the duties thou dost send us with each returning sun.

But of all the year this season, when nature is making ready for her annual resurrection, seems the brightest and the best. The very sunshine of the spring carries with it a laugh and song, the new-blown flowers reflect thy beauty and purity, and the birds returning from

the plantations and marshes of the south swell their tiny throats with anthems of joy. We thank thee for the spring.

We thank thee that the earth knows no failure in thy plans, that winter always is followed by spring, seed-time by harvest, night by day. We thank thee for the confidence that thou hast a plan too for us, thy children, that thy purpose is invincible and thy love irresistible.

We thank thee for the certain upward movement of this world, with many blunderings and falls, but steadily, surely, upward to some goal set by thee. We thank thee that we can read and see this upward movement of the race in its blind, painful struggle toward light and freedom and truth.

We thank thee that we may have faith when we cannot see, that we may have sure confidence in thy Kingdom and believe, even against sight, that it is growing and taking possession of the earth, and that some day heaven and earth will be as one. This sin-smitten world groans and travails in pain until now, but we believe that out of the wrath of man thou wilt get praise, and that out of the tumult and the shouting thou wilt bring peace, and that righteousness and justice shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. So may it be. We ask in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

2. O LORD, our God, author and giver of all good things, who hast ordained the earth to bring forth grass for cattle, and herbs and food for the service of man, look down in thy compassion upon us, and bless, we beseech thee, the labors of thy servants who till and sow the fields. Vouchsafe to us seasonable weather; cause thy face to shine, and let thy rain and dew refresh

the ground, that the fruits of the earth may be matured, our garners may be filled with corn and all good fruits, and that there may be abundance of food both for man and for beast. So we thy people and the sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. ALMIGHTY GOD, Creator of all that we see, we thank thee for the beauty of the world. By the glory of sunrise and sunset, by starlight, by the moon shining upon lake and ocean, by the splendor of noonday, we are reminded of thy word, Let there be light. We are grateful for the blue sky and for the fields of green, for flowers and for forests, for billowy clouds and for the brilliance of the lightning. The heavens declare thy glory and the firmament showeth thy handiwork. Thou makest the clouds thy chariot, and flames of fire thy ministers. In all of the loveliness of thy world may we feel thy presence disturbing us with the joy of elevated thoughts. And as we consider the flowers of the fields, may we hear the Master saying unto us, Be not anxious. In Christ's name we ask. *Amen.*

MOTHER'S DAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "HONOR thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

2. "BLESSED is the man that fearth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed."

3. "COME unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. COMING unto this house, O Lord, upon this day known as Mother's Day, help us to realize that through the faithfulness of our fathers and mothers unto the Gospel we have the blessings of this house. From generation unto generation there has been handed down the wisdom of the law and the good news of the gospel. Help us to appreciate our privileges. Help us to cleave to every ancient good and add to them, giving a new momentum unto righteousness through our own Christian lives. *Amen.*

2. O GOD, who art the Father of us all; we pray for thy blessing upon all mothers everywhere. Give to them holy desires with wisdom and power to fulfill the same, so that their children may grow up to call them blessed, and to be useful men and women in this thy great world. We ask this, O Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour, who once lay a little child in the arms of a holy mother. *Amen.*

3. WE PRAISE thee, O God, for all the hallowed memories and associations of this day. Grant that this service of worship may honor thee and honor our mothers in whose memory we worship. From their lips and faces and lives we first learned of thee and we thank thee for revealing thyself so beautifully and so wonderfully. *Amen.*

4. FATHER of Life, fold in the everlasting arms of thy love the torch-bearers of life—the mothers of the race. As they struggle up the steps of motherhood, through its travail of mind, body, and soul, give them a clearer vision and a guiding wisdom. Grant them the compensation of a love returned and understood, and the ultimate satisfaction of knowing that they have lifted those entrusted to their care up into helpful harmony with thy kingdom. Bestow an especial tenderness on those who, having borne no children nevertheless exert the sweet ministries of motherhood over their home circle. Comfort all lonely, unmothered hearts. Grant the ever-steadying power of thy support through the daily discouragements, the clash and readjustment of ideals, and the anguish of bereavement that come into all mothers' lives. Increase, we pray, their cheerful steadfastness, their wistful selfless strength; and, at the close of their day, may they enter into rest with faith

undimmed, and unafraid. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. WE ADD to our offering, O Lord, our prayer that it may become more useful in building thy kingdom by virtue of thy blessing being given unto it, for we remember that of old a very small portion of a mother's meal was by thy blessing made to serve a great multitude. In the name of Christ we ask. *Amen.*

2. TEACH US, O Master, wisdom in the earning, spending, saving and giving of our wealth. Make us faithful and loving stewards. Grant blessing upon that which we give for others and also upon that which we keep to use ourselves. *Amen.*

3. DEAR SAVIOUR, who wert born of a woman that thou mightest redeem us from sin, give us grateful hearts for the blessing of motherhood. Help us to catch the mother's spirit of love and self-denial, of intelligent and willing sacrifice. In this spirit help us now to present our offerings; and may they be symbolic of our whole life-attitude toward thee. We ask it in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

4. OUR FATHER in heaven, who art the fountain of all goodness and the ineffable source of all grace: may it please thee to receive at our hands the gifts which we have but received of thy merciful bounty. By thy goodness we have been able to have them for a time and by thy grace we have been led to offer them now. Grant us wisdom to gain and use all that we may possess justly and soberly, according to thy righteous will, that we may thereby acknowledge thee to be the Author

and Giver of all good things and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. ALMIGHTY GOD, we honor thee by setting apart a day to hallow our mother's name. Thou hast held in thy keeping one universal heart and close to it in safety and peace thou hast put the babes to whom thou hast given life in this world. We cannot lose our whole life while we feel the touch of her hand. The symbol of her power to-day is the white carnation, more beautiful than our words, more fragrant than our praises, more pure than our thoughts. Amid the rush of life, may we this day go back in holy memory to this pure fountain of life, and may we come forth in the innocence and peace in which she gave us to our life's task. Father of all mankind and giver and sustainer of life, we bring thee in the arms of our faith today, with all their loves and longings, the mothers of our race. Let them not struggle unsustained up the steep of motherhood. Soothe the pain of their travail and fruit their longings in loving ministries from those to whom they have given life, and on whom they have lavished the largess of their love.

Grant them patience and wisdom amid the daily discouragements, the clash of ideals, and the fret and care. Let not the anguish of bereavement destroy their trust in thy love; help them keep faith that thou canst mend even the broken lives that stab them with a sorrow worse than death.

Company with them in the lonely hours when their children pass from the home roof to build homes of their own. Reward their sacrifices with love returned

and the consciousness of having helped their sons and daughters find God their heavenly Father, and a worthy life. We ask in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

2. WE THANK thee, O God, for the love that is now in the world, that love lights more fires than hate extinguishes, and that the world grows better as the earth grows old.

We pray that every home may be a place of love and trust. We pray for all homes. For those homes where love has pined and almost died. For those humans who sit together and look across a narrow table at one another as they take their food, and realize that they are farther apart than the poles. Take out of those homes the sin and selfishness, that each may make concessions and do the gracious thing until they win back the old confidence and trust.

We pray for homes where there are aged; we pray for homes where there are little children. Bless the aged and bless the young. We pray for those homes where no children are, that the spirit of youth may not be lacking there.

We thank thee also that our interest and concern are world-wide. We thank thee that the needs of the world do not look to us in vain, that our generosity and philanthropy go out so freely and effectively. May our good will be joined to thine and may thy Holy Spirit further every generous deed. We pray for all people who on earth do dwell. For those who live under the shadow of ignorance and superstition, especially for those who live in suspicion and fear. We pray for all religions, that they may include a true knowledge of thee. We pray for all the churches in Christendom, that they may bear true witness for thee. We pray for our city

and this broad land. We pray for all rulers and all who are ruled over.

Especially this day we pray for all mothers. May thy grace be sufficient for them, and may husbands, children, friends and neighbors give them the honor and love which is their due.

O God, there are so many kind people in the world, Lord love them all. Do with each according to thy love, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

MEMORIAL DAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "COME, behold the works of the Lord . . . he maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

2. "HOPE in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, and he shall lift you up. Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto you."

3. "O SING unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord all the earth, for he hath done marvellous things. Light is sown for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O LORD, thou who art our God and our fathers' God, we desire to offer that homage which is due to thee and which will aid us to impress upon this generation the lessons that can be learned from the past. Especially would we thank thee for the good examples of those who having fought in defense of liberty and right

do now rest from their labors. Hasten the happy day when war shall be learned no longer, and all battle flags be furled. We ask in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

2. As we approach another Memorial Day we hold in loving memory the lives of loved ones who have gone before us. We thank thee for their gracious influences, for our assurance of their immortality, and the glorious hope that we shall again see them face to face. We thank thee for the heroism and self-sacrifice of those who have defended our flag and country. We are inspired by their courage and stimulated unto nobler living by the presence of many of them. Grant to each veteran of our country's wars a portion of thy grace. May we soon learn a better way of living than by war—help us all to make peace.

Bless America. Make her among the nations as the dawn ushering in a day of righteousness and as a torch passing on the salvation of our God. *Amen.*

3. ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast brought us to this hour of prayer and communion in thy house. Now that we are here may we all experience the grace of common worship and enter into the joy and strength of its ministry. Bless us each one with the pardon of our sins. And on this Day of Memory and of national reflection we beseech thee, Lord God Almighty, to defend our land from the secret power and the open shame of great national sins. From all dishonesty and civil corruption; from all vain-glory and selfish luxury; from all cruelty and the spirit of violence; from all covetousness which is idolatry; from impurity which defiles the temples of the Holy Spirit; and from intemperance, which is the mother of many crimes and sorrows, good Lord, deliver and

save us and our children, in this blood-bought land which thou hast blest with the light of pure religion; through Jesus Christ our only Saviour and King. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

O LORD our Lord, who art King of all the earth; accept, of thine infinite goodness, the offerings of thy people, which, in obedience to thy commandment, in honor of thy name, and with a free will and joyful heart, we yield and dedicate to thee: and grant unto us thy blessing, that the same being devoted to thy service, may be used for thy glory, and for the welfare of thy Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

Memorial Day, formerly called Decoration Day, occurs on the 30th of May. It is dedicated to the memory of our patriot dead. Such a prayer as one of the following would be appropriate on the Sunday preceding or at the Memorial Day services in a church, hall, or in the cemetery.

1. O LORD, thou who art our God and our fathers' God, we desire to offer that homage which is due to thee and to seek thy blessing upon the ceremonies in which we are engaged. We are commemorating the brave deeds done and the heroic deaths encountered in causes which, being good, we believe to have been thine own. Bless our endeavor to impress upon this generation the lessons that can be learned from the past. Especially would we now give thee thanks for the good examples of those who, having fought in defense of liberty and right, do now rest from their labors. As we strew their honored graves with floral tokens

of our loving remembrance, we rejoice in the knowledge that they are not forgotten by thee. May this land for which they fought be preserved through all the dangers that confront it, and may it ever stand as an ensign to all the peoples of the earth. Give our rulers and all in authority over us wisdom to see and know what things they ought to do, and grace faithfully to fulfill the same. May they and we and all the people live in thy fear and walk in thy ways. Hasten the happy day when war shall be learned no longer and all battle flags be furled; when men shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks, and peace shall reign throughout the whole earth. And at last, O Lord God, when our work here is done, may we, with all those whom we have loved and lost a while, be reunited in thy new and everlasting kingdom, where death and pain and parting never come. We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

2. WE THANK thee, O God, for the land in which we first saw the light, the country which gives us a home with peace and plenty, protection and prosperity. We thank thee for its liberties and laws, its traditions and institutions, its courts and schools and churches. We thank thee for the men who make its laws and those who preserve order; for its boundless resources and its offer of life and a larger life to the multitude.

May we render such service as our country asks of every citizen. May we not only obey its laws but respect and uphold them, not only avoid its courts of law but do them honor. May we pay our taxes cheerfully, remembering that in the cheapest market we are buying streets and water and light and protection and parks

for our children to play in, and that for all society has given to us we owe something in return.

May we form intelligent opinions of public policy and express them in earnest discussion and disinterested vote. May we give honor to those public servants to whom honor is due and condemn those who deserve condemnation. May we use the best policies and party available to accomplish the ends of patriotism, but seek always for better parties and policies, for better men in office.

May we remember that the greatness of any nation depends on the virtue of its citizens and that no nation can endure which forgets God. So may we be clean and straight and upright in our personal life. We would offer our country not a hand in which is a musket clutched, but a hand that is clean and a heart that knows no guile. Help us to offer thee and the land we love a life that has worth and beauty, integrity and power.

May we be better neighbors, more loyal friends, more generous and entirely just to our employees and servants, and more faithful to our employers. May we be true to all human relationship, true to ourselves, true to one another and true to thee. So shall we show our love for our fatherland and for thee, our Father, and best celebrate and perpetuate the best meaning of Memorial Day. We ask through Christ. *Amen.*

3. OUR GOD and Father, thou hast led us away from that which is earthly and commonplace, so that we may in fellowship with thee, allow our minds and hearts to dwell upon the wondrous gift and sacrifice of those who have given their comfort, their health, their homes, yea, their very lives so that we who stand before thee

might have real joy in peace on earth among men. In thy presence, O God, we humbly acknowledge our debt to them, and we ask that we may not break faith with them by undoing that for which they have given so much. Our statesmen, our teachers, our preachers, have need of thy constant guidance in attaining that peace which thou hast promised thy children; as followers of thy teaching, as professing Christians, we need divine help and strength so that we may follow bravely our leaders who would carry us along the path of faith in our fellow men and compassion for the weaker nations among thy peoples.

Through thy matchless love for us, we have learned something of forgiveness to those who trespass against us and through faith in thee and thy promise of eternal life, we are gradually coming out of the darkness of national and international strife, and with thy help we look forward to the time when our misunderstandings with other states and other nations may pass from our horizon without the sacrifice of many youthful lives, just as we now adjust our differences with our neighbors about us. In all humility, we thank thee for the many gifts of scientific invention and progress, which help to overcome distance and facilitate communication. Through these marvelous gifts we shall learn to know the peoples of the earth as we now know those who live about us, and knowing them we shall learn how thy love and protection knows no race, no state boundaries, and recognizes no earthly wealth. We may then come to know the meaning of thy transcendent love for thy children on earth who have faith in thee and the meaning of the brotherhood of man.

Grant us grace to deal fairly, generously, and unselfishly with those among us today who have yet the

cloud of the last great struggle hanging over them. To some the cloud is ill health, to others it is disappointment in life, to others it is sheer loneliness because of the void left when loved ones were taken from them. Grant them all, O God, a new hope in life, and new faith in fellowmen, a new and boundless love for thee, and cause them to see through the sufferings and death of thy Son, Jesus Christ, how true peace and happiness can come into every life by serving those about us in thy name and in this way preparing ourselves for the great adventure promised to those who believe. We ask through Christ. *Amen.*

ASCENSION DAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "SO THEN after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."

2. "THUS saith the high and lofty One who inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy. I dwell in the high and holy place, and with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and the heart of the contrite."

3. "BLESSED are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

4. "WHEN he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

5. "YE MEN of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O GOD, who, to show forth the wonders of thy majesty, didst after thy resurrection from the dead ascend into heaven in the presence of thine apostles, grant us the aid of thy loving-kindness; that according

to thy promise thou mayest ever dwell with us on earth, and we with thee in heaven. We ask in thy name. *Amen.*

2. GRANT, O LORD, that whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, we may think on these things, and ever continue in the practice of the same, through the power of thine ascended Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. O THOU who art the true source of all blessing and the true Lord of all living, we beseech thee to help us think of these gifts as treasure laid up in heaven, so that our hearts may abide there also. And may both gifts and givers, by thy blessing, be separated to the uses whereto thou shalt call them. Help us, therefore, to present our offerings in such a way as to glorify thee and, at the same time, to bring to ourselves the richest blessings. For the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

2. ALL THINGS are thine, O God. We belong to thee, for thou art the Creator of us all. In thee we live and move and have our being. In bringing these gifts to thine house we recognize our trusteeship. Our money is sacred, for we are to render an account unto thee. May we bring our offering thoughtfully, and freely give as we have been blessed with thy confidence. Breathe upon us thy Spirit, and may this part of our worship be acceptable to thee, O Lord, our risen, ascended and reigning Redeemer. *Amen.*

3. O THOU who art the true source of all blessing and the true Lord of all living, we beseech thee to help us think of these gifts as treasure laid up in heaven, so that our hearts may abide there also, whither thou hast ascended. And may both gifts and givers, by thy blessing, be separated to the uses whereto thou shalt call them. Help us, therefore, to present our offerings in such a way as to glorify thee, our God, and, at the same time, to bring to ourselves the richest blessing. For the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. O LORD Jesus Christ, thou Conqueror of death and hell, who from the depths of thy humiliation didst pass into the heavens, and art crowned with glory and honor as King of saints and eternal High Priest over the house of God; let thy all-powerful intercessions prevail on our behalf, that, being delivered from the curse of sin, we may receive grace and strength to follow thee with patient endurance through the sorrows and pains of earth, and the darkness of the grave, and, having thus shared in thy sufferings here, become partakers also of thy joy and glory in the everlasting kingdom of the Father. *Amen.*

2. GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

3. O GOD, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy

kingdom in heaven; we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

CHILDREN'S DAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "AND JESUS called a little child unto him and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

2. "OUT of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise."

3. "COME, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

4. "SUFFER the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

5. "GREAT is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness."
... "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion." ... "Praise ye the Lord."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O God, our heavenly Father, we come to thee in the morning of this happy Children's Day. Come to us, O thou Holy Spirit of God and help us to worship in spirit and in truth. Fill this house with thy presence. Enter the sanctuaries which we have dedicated to thee in our inner lives. Make sensitive our minds to truth.

Kindle our hearts with love. Energize our wills unto obedient service. Hear us as we offer the prayer our Master has taught us to offer in the spirit of little children: "Our Father," etc.

2. ALMIGHTY FATHER, we bless thee for the children thou hast given us, and for all the joys they have brought us. We would consecrate them anew to thy service; we would train them in knowledge and love of thy commands. Reveal to them the glory and beauty of life. Enable them to rise to their supreme opportunities; to cast aside all frivolity and carelessness and to make ready body and mind for the work that awaits them. Inspire them with a spirit of truth and courage and self-control. Write the law of kindness in their hearts, that they may hate all cruelty with a perfect hatred, and love all goodness and mercy with a perfect love. As they grow in age, may they grow in grace. Bless us in all the services of this happy Children's Day. Help us all to worship thee who art a spirit in spirit and in truth, in the beauty of holiness. And may we learn lessons this day that will aid us in serving thee better in the days that are to come. We ask in the name of Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

3. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we are very weak and sinful. Make us sorry for all the wrong things that we have done, and help us to grow better every day. Keep us from all meanness and selfishness, and from hurting others by word or deed. Help us gladly to obey our parents and teachers, make us ready to give up our own way, and teach us to be patient and kind and loving to all about us. Make us painstaking and cheerful in doing every little duty. Give us courage to resist evil and hardness to endure. Help us to be

more reverent and attentive in Church and Sunday School. May we be always pure and truthful in thought and word, and learn day by day to know thee better and to love thee more. Bless our Church and Sunday School and all who belong to them. Bring the whole world to know and love Christ and serve him gladly. Teach us how we may best help in bringing in thy kingdom. We ask in the name of Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. O God, our Father, we praise and thank thee for children; for their simple-mindedness, their spirit of wonder, their unexpectedness, their affection, their appreciation of beauty and fun and the goodness of life, for the love and reverence of children among the roughest men and women, for those engaged in education that have the childlike heart and are holding up to teachers the ideal of believing in and waiting upon the child, for the awakening of the nation to the need for the education and care of her children, for all the unknown faithful service of teachers and others to destitute children, for the wise love of parents and for all happy, healthy homes where children grow up loving what is fair and good, we thank thee, O Lord.

For all children who are handicapped by hard circumstances; for those who are being brought up in homes in which there is no beauty or joy or love; for the sick, incurable, and mentally deficient; for the wayward, and for those who are misunderstood, we beseech thee to hear us, O Lord.

For all teachers, especially for those who find it hard to keep the eternal youth and freshness which children demand, that they may find in Christ a con-

tinual renewal and deepening of personality, we beseech thee to hear us, O Lord. O God, who hast included all thy commandments in one commandment of love, so that if we love not our neighbor we cannot fulfill thy law; we humbly pray thee to create in us such a sincere and fervent love of one another that we may be true children of our Father in heaven, and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. We ask in his name. *Amen.*

2. O THOU who wast a child, be present to-day. Help us to remember how precious the little children are to thee. May we see their value as thou dost see it. May we learn from them the lessons of love and trust and joy and gladness and growth.

Teach us that we may teach them the truths thou wouldst have them learn. Help us, that we may live lives that will be good examples for them. May they be able to safely follow in our footsteps. May they learn from us lessons of courage and duty and zeal.

Help the great cause of education everywhere. Bless the colleges and common schools. Bless the universities and the night schools. Bless the day schools and the church schools. May thy truth make men free.

O God of wisdom, make us wise. Keep us from follies that wreck life and soul. May we find the wisdom that is in thee.

Dear Jesus, we are thine. These children are thine. We love thee because thou hast loved us. Guide us and keep us every day in playing and working. Help us to learn our lessons. Walk very close beside us. May we please thee in all we do. Bless our Sunday School and teachers and church. We ask in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

COMMENCEMENT TIME

INVOCATION PRAYER

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things both in heaven and earth; we invoke thy blessing upon the proceedings in which we are now engaged. May we all be duly impressed with the dignity and necessity of the educational work of our city and land. We pray especially for thy protection upon those who, leaving their school days behind, are about to go forth to meet the sterner duties of maturer life. Let thy mercy ever be with them. Direct them in all their doings with thy most gracious favor and further them with thy continual help; and grant that, thou being their ruler and guide, they may so pass through things temporal that they lose not finally the things eternal. And may we all as members of this community manifest an interest in speech and action toward our youth. Bless, we pray thee, our public schools, and all institutions of learning, their officers, teachers and pupils; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, thou who lightenest every man that cometh into the world, enlighten our hearts and minds with the favor of thy countenance while we wait before thee this day. Let

thy divine favor rest upon this school under whose auspices we are met—upon its faculty, its graduates, its present students, upon the members of the class graduating to-day and upon all their parents and friends and well-wishers. Bless especially, we pray thee, all here and everywhere who teach and guide the young. Grant them an abiding consciousness that they are co-workers with thee, thou Great Teacher of humanity, and that thou hast charged them with the holy duty of bringing forth from the budding life of the young the mysterious stores of character and ability which thou hast hidden in them. Do thou reward thy servants with a glad sense of their own eternal worth as teachers of the race, and in the heat of the day do thou show the spring by the wayside that flows from the eternal silence of God and gives new life to all who drink of it. Bless the cause of sound learning everywhere. We thank thee, O God, that the sum of human knowledge is being increased. We thank thee that the sun of knowledge is shining and that the clouds of ignorance are being scattered. We bless thy Name for all that knowledge has done and is now doing for the well-being of mankind—in the spread of material comfort among men, in the prevention and cure of disease, in the promotion of good feeling, in social service and philanthropic effort, in improved manners, in refined living, in the advance of morals, in elevated tastes and in the emancipating power of the truth that delivers man from the power of appetite; that tells him to seek the pleasures of the mind; that teaches him to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and that bids him bring forth the fruits of the Spirit in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness and faith. Send out thy light and thy truth that with growing knowledge there may be greater

faith, and so promote the holy alliance between the two that men shall not be satisfied with either an ignorant faith or an unbelieving knowledge.

Bless very especially, we pray thee, our Father, this group of young women going out from school to-day. May their lives and health and strength be very precious in thy sight. Give them, we pray thee, just as much of the good things of this life as they can bear and still keep humble and lowly of heart in thy sight and in the sight of men. We bless thee that we know thou art our Father and that thou dost delight in seeing thy children happy. May they be happy, especially in thee. And may they all be very useful in life, giving unselfish service to the world, causing good fruits, as well as beautiful flowers, to spring up wherever they may tread. *Amen.*

2. OUR FATHER, because our hearts are thine, there is peace within them, and a great light shines from our eyes. This is the day our Lord has made for us when we as parents and friends of these young men and young women may renew our youth and joy in their happiness.

Our Father, we rejoice in the strength and guidance which has kept these young friends steadfast in their purpose to prepare themselves for service and leadership, and we pray that thou wilt continue to watch over them as they go forth into the various walks of life.

Their great happiness to-day is not dimmed by knowledge of the problems which lie before them, before their parents, before all men, but experience in the days to come will cause them to have need of thee and thy promise of comfort. We pray thee keep thy protecting arm about them, because they are very dear to

us. We have accepted them into our homes as a gift from thee, have given them food, shelter, and counsel as taught us by Christ Jesus. Through thy gracious teachings of love and obedience, they have endeared themselves to us, so their every act, their triumphs and their sorrows are as our own, and we appeal to thee to sustain them at all times, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

INDEPENDENCE DAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "PRAISE waiteth for thee O God in Zion, unto thee shall the vow be performed. O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come." "We will lift up our eyes unto the hills whence cometh our help. Our help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth."

2. "TEACH me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart."

3. "MY VOICE shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will we direct our prayer unto thee, and will look up."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. OUR FATHER in Heaven, as we have come together in thy name, and lift our hearts to thee, so let us as a people resolve in thy service. We can never thank thee enough for all our blessings, and especially for the great and glorious gift of the Gospel of salvation to the nation. Teach us to do all in our power to spread abroad thy word and be led to testify for thee.

We pray that thou would'st awake the nations, and gather into thy Church such people as shall bring new energies and new tastes and aptitudes, so that the Church may be strengthened.

Bless us through our government. Bless our President and strengthen his heart for the tasks and problems that shall be his. Bless all those who occupy places of authority or influence of any kind. O God, be pleased to grant them thy Holy Spirit, and cause them to seek from thee thy Spirit. May they not think that wisdom can exist apart from holiness. May they not think that the best interests of any people can be attained without thy guidance. In thy name who told us to cast our burdens on thee. *Amen.*

2. COME THOU, O God, and reveal thy power. Take possession of this restless world and transform it by thy grace. Set up the banner of the cross in every land and in every heart. Direct the movements of governments, enter the marts of trade, sanctify our institutions of learning and fill the earth with righteousness and peace.

Come thou in thy majesty and love and reign over us, even us, in our need. Establish thy throne on our hearts. We are weary of having our own way. Thy way is truth, thy will is holiness, thy constraint is liberty, thy law is love. Make us willing subjects of thine. May thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. THINE, O God, is the kingdom. And blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. We believe that thy hand has been in the founding and the fortunes of this land. We do homage to it for its ideals, its principles, its glorious company of apostles of truth, its noble army of martyrs for liberty and humanity. We

love and cherish it as our home and our shrine; but we hallow it, we stand in awe of it, as the scene of thy special activity, the instrument of thy holy purposes. May its vision not pass; may the clouds that hang over it be dispersed by the clear shining of the sun of righteousness and peace; may the dream of freedom with fraternity be realized here, even here, upon these shores, that thy saving health may be known among all nations. Lord, defend our land, we beseech thee, from the secret power and the open shame of great national sins. From all dishonesty and civic corruption; from all vainglory and selfish luxury; from all cruelty and the spirit of violence; from all covetousness which is idolatry; from impurity which defiles the temple of the Holy Spirit; and from intemperance, which is the mother of many crimes and sorrows; good Lord, deliver and save us and our children, in the land which thou hast blessed with the light of pure religion; through Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and King. *Amen.*

2. O LORD and Father of mankind, we come to thee to-day with thanksgiving and praise in our hearts. We look to thee as the God of love, God the Father, the Guide, the Friend, of all men. With the nations of the earth we bow before thee on this thy day. Countless in number almost as the stars that shine in thee, we may be one, bound by the thrice-woven cord of love divine.

Especially to-day while we bear up to thee in prayer the nations of the earth. Especially do we pray that thou wilt hear us for our native land, the land we love the most. Boundless have been the blessings that have been showered upon this rich and fair America of ours—we thank thee, Father, for these blessings. Give

us strength of heart and character we pray to put away sin, to put away weakness, to put away lightness. Give us the courage of a splendid manhood and womanhood that we, building upon the glorious heritage of the past may raise a worthy superstructure. Make us law-abiding citizens, pure in the purpose to keep intact the commandments and prohibitions that have been set up as the guardian of our liberty. Help us with a common, united, vigorous effort to cleanse our land of evil-doing and so to instruct our boys and girls, so to teach men and women from pulpit and press that ugliness and vice shall give way to beauty and purity.

Develop within us O Lord a passion for peace. Pour thy love upon us so that war and the contentious spirit shall pass away and the Prince of Peace shall reign in very truth. Bring about through us the brotherhood of all mankind.

And now, Father, we would remember with loving sorrow those youths who went out in response to their country's call, to come back among us no more. We are mindful in this Independence Sunday that a man can do no more than lay down his life. We thank thee, though with a painful sense of loss, that in this nation were bred spirits so courageous and fine that they willingly paid the last full measure of devotion when their country summoned them.

Be with those near and dear who are left behind. Be with us that we may live worthy lives enriched by the past, following thee whom to know aright is life eternal. And to thee we give the praise now and forever more. *Amen.*

3. FORGIVE US, our Father, if in the past we have too much fostered notions of national pride and such

national hatreds as lead toward war and bloodshed. O thou God of Infinite Love, whose tender solicitude for the welfare and happiness of thy children doth encompass the earth, and whose divine plan doth include the uplifting and perfecting of all peoples and races, teach us, thy believing children, to see as thou seest, in order that we may recognize true worth and nobility in those whose modes of thought, habits of life, and racial heritage differ from our own. Reveal unto us and to all men ever more clearly the unsearchable riches of thy grace and the infinite outreach of thy purpose for mankind. Enlarge our sympathies. Chasten our ambitions. Magnify unto us the superlative blessings of peace, and grant unto us an increasing sense of responsibility and privilege as co-laborers with thee in the uplifting of thy kingdom among men, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

4. God is our refuge and strength and in his care we are safe. We thank thee for our faith in God's guiding hand in history and for his blessing upon our national life. We bless thee for our homes and for our loved ones. We rejoice in freedom and liberty to do what is right. We are happy in the thought of the growing sense of unity among the nations and for the nearer approach of world-wide peace. Thy goodness leads us to repentance. We think of the dark clouds of sin and shame upon our national life. We remember the oppression of the weak, the unrestrained passion for wealth, the sacrifice of the Sabbath, the pride that forgets God, the riotous pursuit of pleasure, the betrayal of trust in high places. Forgive us and save us from the evils that would destroy us. Our hope is in thee. We believe the Lord of hosts is with us. Help

us to honor thee in all our ways and then our paths will all be directed by thee. O Lord, which hast the hearts of all rulers in thy hand, and guidest their counsels after the good pleasure of thy will, give thy grace to all who rule in this land, that they may ever set before their eyes thy most high and princely majesty, the fear of thy name, and the accomplishments of thy law; that they ruling righteously, and we living obediently, may all together with quiet hearts and free conscience praise and magnify thee, our Lord God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

5. ALMIGHTY GOD, who in the former times didst lead our fathers forth into a wealthy place and set their feet in a large room, give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to us their children, that we may always approve ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Defend our liberties; preserve our unity. Save us from lawlessness and violence; from discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Fashion into one godly people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those whom we entrust in thy name with the authority of governance, to the end that there may be good government at home and in thine own good time peace with all the world. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness; and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail. All this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

LABOR SUNDAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "AND IT came to pass in the days, when Moses was grown up, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens."

2. "SEEKEST THOU great things for thyself? Seek them not."

3. "PRAY FOR the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. LORD GOD our heavenly Father, we thy children come before thee to thank thee and to praise thee. We thank thee for the gift of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and that thou hast kindled faith and love in our hearts through thy Holy Spirit. We thank thee for peace of soul through the forgiveness of our sins and for the blessed hope of eternal life. We thank thee also for the opportunity to labor in our earthly calling and thereby to render service to thee, to our dear ones, and to our fellowmen in general. So bless us, heavenly Father, that we may have the strength always to do our duty as it is made clear to us. Bless us as a nation, that the

high hopes placed in us by peoples in distress may not be shattered. Bless thy Church that it may have the power always to witness to the truth and to spread the light of thy Gospel everywhere. Strengthen and succor us, O God, in our trials and temptations, that we be not overcome. Give us willingness to witness for Christ wherever we go, and help us gladly to share our temporal blessings with those who are in physical want. Lead us through the hours of the day and through the coming night and through all our days and nights. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. O God, of whom every fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named, we thank thee that we belong to thy great worldwide family, redeemed unto thyself out of every tribe and nation and people and tongue. Save us from all narrow thoughts of thy purpose: grant that we may not limit thy love by the measures of our own minds. Help us to claim as our brothers and sisters all who do the will of God. Help us to love all who love our Lord Christ in sincerity, and to keep with loyal hearts the Master's new commandment. Help us to be one in faith and service with all who believe in thee, who are working to lift the world towards its true destiny. So may we know that we ourselves are compassed about with many comrades and helpers, and are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God. *Amen.*

3. O LORD, give thy blessing, we pray thee, to our daily work, that we may do it in faith and heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men. All our powers of body and mind are thine, and we would fain devote them to thy service. Sanctify them, and the work in which they are engaged; let us not be slothful, but fer-

vent in spirit, and do thou, O Lord, so bless our efforts that they may bring forth in us the fruits of true wisdom. Teach us to seek after truth and enable us to gain it; but grant that we may ever speak the truth in love, that, while we know earthly things, we may know thee, and be known by thee, through and in thy Son Jesus Christ. Give us this day thy Holy Spirit, that we may be thine in body and Spirit in all our work and all our refreshments, through Jesus Christ thy Son, or Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. TEACH US, Father, both the subtle danger and the tremendous value of money. Keep us from the menace of loving it, but help us to know the power for good that comes through using it aright. Here on this Labor Sunday we dedicate our gifts to thee with the prayer that their spirit of sacrifice may overcome every lurking trace of money-love. May those to whom is committed the expenditure of these gifts be divinely guided to use them for thy glory and to the work of Christ. *Amen.*

2. THE SILVER is thine, the gold is thine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. Thou givest us power to get wealth. Of that which thou hast given us we bring to thee. Wilt thou graciously receive our offering and use it for the extension of thy Kingdom in the earth. We ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. O THOU Lord and Father of all mankind, unite the hearts of thy children of whatever race or creed, or whatever land or clime, in one great fellowship of the Spirit. Let no unworthy thing separate us from one another and from thee, O God. May we have unity of

life, of hope, of faith and of service, that thy divine Kingdom may come to this troubled world; through Christ. *Amen.*

4. OUR HEAVENLY Father, may we have the wealth of joy that belongs to those who give unto others. Give unto us loving, generous hearts, that shall be happy only when they are sharing with others in need. Let us be honest with the Master in giving all that we are able; let us give even as thou hast prospered us. When some great happiness or blessing has come to us, may we remember especially to try to bring some of it into the lives of those who are unhappy or in need, or in temptation. Strengthen us. Bless us. Guide us. In the name of Jesus we pray. *Amen.*

5. THAT IT may please thee to endue with great strength and wisdom those who organize the ways and means of life, all workers with heart and brain and hand, and to deepen the spirit of brotherhood, we pray thee, O God, as we present our offerings for the advancement of thy kingdom. Through Christ we ask. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. GRANT US, O Lord, an open mind and understanding heart, so we may be willing to share with others the good that has come to us. Let the man or woman who has plenty of this world's goods be willing to share with others according to the hours of toil required of them. Likewise, permit the man or woman who labors at a task assigned by another to be diligent in doing the work, to be grateful for that which is received, and anxious to lend hand and voice toward creating sympathetic understanding among others.

We know from thy teachings that we are required to be faithful in little matters, before we may expect to be entrusted with great responsibility, and we humbly seek thy help in doing that which is assigned to us. As employers of others, we recognize that we have in our keeping the happiness of many who are not directly associated with us as well as those who are helping with our work day after day, and we ask that we may see clearly what thou wouldst have us do. As workers in the employ of others, we know the well-being of the enterprise depends upon each man or woman engaged in carrying on the work. When one of us is idle, the time wasted must be filled in by another; when one of us is slovenly about our work, it is necessary for another to rectify it; when we demand that which may not rightfully be ours, we are causing some other to suffer.

Many serious problems confront us in our work and life, and we ask thy guidance in making an attempt to solve them. Grant that we may have patience, sympathy, and a desire to work out the answers in a truly Christian manner. Grant that we may not add to the burden and anxieties of others by losing sight of all claims but our own. We have faith in thee and thy program of progress for thy children on earth, and we humbly place ourselves in thy keeping. Give us wisdom where wisdom is needed, give us strength to tide us over rough places, and increase our faith and trust in thee so we may rely more fully upon thy guiding hand. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. GOD GRANT that we may be truly thankful for the play-time we have enjoyed during the past months. Grant that our bodies may be strong and full of vigor for the work ahead. Grant that our minds may be more

keen and discerning in choosing our course for the coming year. With thy help we can keep ourselves clean in desire, word, and deed. Grant us thy help continuously, so we may not be led astray by others, nor yet lead our companions away from thee; rather cause our minds and hearts to dwell on the inspirations we have had during our vacations and so lead us far beyond the goal of service we had set for ourselves. With thy help, our playtime in the past months may be made a constant blessing to those about us through the season of earnest work ahead of us. If this be thy will, we ask it in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

3. DEAR LORD, we thank thee for life and love and work to do, for life that is for serving, for love that sends us to our tasks, and for the large place thou hast given us in the world's work. Help us, our Father, to realize how large a place it is. Thou hast stored up heat in wood and coal that thy great sun may be brought into our houses to warm our hearths and homes; thou hast locked up power in falling water, in steam and electricity; thou hast given fertility to soil and utility to the products of the earth. We thank thee for the treasures of earth and sky and sea.

Still more we thank thee that the final touch which transforms these materials and forces into use is left to the hand and brain of man. We thank thee that thou hast made us masters of nature, lords of our own destiny and fashioners of our life.

We beseech thee, O Lord, that we may realize the great business we have in mind. May we find our chiefest joy in useful work wherein we join our hand and brain and heart to thy powers and thy laws and thy love. May the little work of our hands be accomplished with

such joy, such skill, such efficiency, that it may have the qualities of thy great works, the strength of mountains, the freedom of the air and the gladness of sunshine. Thus may we be not mere creatures but creators with thee; not one of thy works but one of thy co-workers.

Thou art calling us, O God, to do new things and harder things. We like the old things because we have acquired facility in doing them. We like to do what everybody will approve because it is familiar; thou art calling us to do ever new things which the good will understand and the evil misinterpret. We like things that will succeed; thou art calling us to things that must partly fail because man is not ready, partly fail because our ideals are so high, because our reach exceeds our grasp. Give us brave hearts and zeal, and make us ready to do whatever needs to be done, new or old.

Bless all and guide all embarking on any new enterprise; a new friendship, a new task, a new relationship, a new ministry, a new faith. Make them to care most of all for the voice of thy approval, looking for praise or blame from thee, the Master of all good workmen.

Give them the winsomeness of thy spirit in breaking barriers down, the strength of thy spirit in lifting where men are weak, the vision of thy spirit in leading far and high. Give them thy patience with wrongs they are powerless to remove, and make them content with their utmost best, leaving the final outcome with thee.

Give us the assurance and the peace which come from remembering we are only one of ten thousand times ten thousand forces which thou hast set to work in the world. If we seem to succeed may we not be puffed up but, rather, grateful to thee for conditions under which to work that make success possible. And if we seem to fail may we not be cast down, knowing that the forces

of good are the stronger and the forces of evil are the weaker because of our seemingly ineffectual blow. May we believe that all we have willed or hoped or dreamed of good shall exist, not its semblance but itself.

Thou art the living God. The cause is thy cause and thy voice has called us to it. May we cast all our care upon thee who carest for us. Through Christ we offer these petitions. *Amen.*

OPENING OF SCHOOL

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. GIVE ADDED strength and courage, O God, to the parents who are permitting their little ones to leave the shelter of the home for the first time to begin work in the schools provided by this community. Take away the feeling of emptiness and loneliness from the hearts and homes of these parents, caused by the absence of the children during the hours of the day. Put into their hearts, O God, a feeling of trust and confidence in the work of the teachers who have the children in their keeping. Fill the hearts of these parents with gratitude for the bodily growth and health of their children, and for thy gracious protection which now makes it possible for the little ones to go forth to begin the great work of learning to be useful citizens.

Give these parents grace to remember thy will in the training of the little ones, and cause them to exercise most diligent care in the teaching of thy word, so we may have, in the days to come, men and women to carry on the work of the parents in bringing nearer thy Kingdom on earth. Bless the work of the teachers who have come to us to carry forward the work of training our children. Cause them to remember hour by hour how important their work is, how an impression made upon the child mind may make or mar the coming years of that life. Give these faithful workers to know they have the love, esteem, and good will of

all the people of this community; that we expect great things of them, and we know they will not disappoint us. Give them grace, O God, to lend their hands to the teaching of thy Word, thereby setting a worthy example to the young people of our community. Make their daily tasks a joy to them, and reward them according to thy will. Through Christ we ask. *Amen.*

2. IT IS again the season of the year, dear Lord, when many of our loved ones are taking themselves off to school and colleges at a distance. We have known hour by hour and day by day what their programs have been, and we have rested in our belief that all was well with them. We have tried to be worthy of thy gracious protection of these our children as they have gone about their work and play.

Now, when they are to be away from us months at a time, we trust thou wilt continue thy ever-present care. Arm them, O Lord, with a sense of danger and wariness when there is likelihood of their being led astray from the path thou hast chosen for them. Guard them in the classroom so their faith in thee may not be disturbed. Guard them in their play, so they may come back to us as hopeful, clean, and full of happiness as they are upon their going.

It is hard for us, O Lord, to give up these loved ones, even for a time, and we do so believing the opportunity at school will fit them more fully to carry out their part of the work of the world. If it be thy will, we pray thou wilt lead them into a field of Christian service. As we are thy children, so are they, and we pray thee keep watch over them. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. MAY THY watchful presence, our heavenly Father, go with our children as they leave the home for the

school. Guide our boys and girls through the years in which they are receiving their education. As they increase in wisdom, may they also grow in favor with thee. Bless the board of education and the faculty, and may their plans be made and their work done as unto Thee. *Amen.*

4. THOU ONLY wise God, our Saviour, with whom are all the treasures of heavenly understanding, illuminate all schools and colleges and universities with the light that cometh from above; that those who teach may be taught of thee, and those who learn may be led by thy Spirit; and grant that by the increase of knowledge thy truth may be confirmed, and thy glory manifested; through Jesus Christ, thy Living Word. *Amen.*

ARMISTICE SUNDAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "GLORY TO GOD in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

2. "AND THEY shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

3. "HE MAKETH wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O LORD, since first the blood of Abel cried to thee from the ground that drank it, this earth of thine has been defiled with the blood of man shed by his brother's hand, and the centuries sob with the ceaseless horror of war. Ever the pride of kings and the covetousness of the strong have driven peaceful nations to slaughter. Ever the songs of the past and the pomp of armies have been used to inflame the passions of the people. Our spirit cries out to thee in revolt against it, and we know that our righteous anger is answered by thy holy wrath. Break thou the spell of the enchantments that make the nations drunk with the lust of battle and draw them on as willing tools of death. Grant us a quiet and steadfast

mind when our own nation clamors for vengeance or aggression. Strengthen our sense of justice and our regard for the equal worth of other peoples and races. Grant to the rulers of nations faith in the possibility of peace through justice, and grant to the common people a new and stern enthusiasm for the cause of peace.

O thou strong Father of all nations, draw all thy great family together with an increasing sense of our common blood and destiny, that peace may come on earth at last, and thy sun may shed its light rejoicing on a holy brotherhood of peoples. We ask all in the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Peace-Bringer. *Amen.*

2. ETERNAL GOD, Father of all souls: Grant unto us such clear visions of the sin of war that we may earnestly seek that cooperation between nations which alone can make war impossible. As man by his inventions has made the whole world into one neighborhood, grant that he may, by his cooperation, make the whole world into one brotherhood. Help us to break down all race prejudice, stay the greed of those who profit by war, and the ambitions of those who seek imperialistic conquest, drenched in blood. Guide all statesmen to seek a just basis for international action in the interests of peace. Arouse in the whole body of the people an adventurous willingness, as they sacrificed greatly for war, so, also, for international good will, to bear bravely, think wisely, decide resolutely, and to achieve triumphantly. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Prince of Peace we ask. *Amen.*

3. MOST MERCIFUL God, our heavenly Father: Touch our hearts to quiet that we may commune with thee. Let the noisy unrealities of earth fade from our minds. Generate in our breasts a sense of infinite leisure and unruffled content. Let thy firm and gentle touch quell all

disturbance. Reduce our chaos to order. Beget within us thy peace. Nothing matters—only so our hands are held by thine! All our fears and sins and frailties we bring to thee, and leave with thee. We want shelter. We want renovation. Do not slay our passionate cravings, but hallow them, direct them, and so satisfy them. Quicken us, Lord! We would tarry with thee until thy life has stirred us to hot desire and high resolve. We would be quiet from noisy unreality that we may be all alive with the real and eternal. Do away with all hollow pretense, and all half-way measures. Make each of us more and more like him who could say, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Remove from us all that is black, forbidding, unlovely, poisonous; and let our lives softly shine with thine own radiance and breathe thy silent power. May peace abide in our hearts, and may another peace, a peace for the whole world, peace among men, come to abide. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

4. OUR FATHER, who art the Father of all, hear our prayer for the peace and concord of the world. Give us thy spirit of love that we may be enabled to banish hate and discord. May we truly learn to bear each other's burdens and do nothing that will add to the burdens of humanity. Help us not to despise any race or nation, no matter how unlike our own. Help us correct our own grievous faults and the faults of our civilization, rather than to sit in judgment upon the faults of others. Grant that rulers, leaders, and public servants of all lands may spend their utmost of wisdom and energy devising ways to further peace among the nations. Disarm our suspicions, allay our fears, and banish our national jealousies. Enlarge the scope of our brotherhood. Give us great patience when we are misunderstood and our

sincerity is doubted. Help us to keep the goal of the heavenly Kingdom always before our eyes. Baptize us with the spirit of humility and service. Hold us true to that gospel which means the largest measure of security and happiness for womanhood and children throughout the world. Help us to so value our brothers' lives that we will do our utmost to prevent their slaughter on bloody fields of battle. Help us to be thoughtful and appreciative of all maimed patriots, widows, and orphans of past wars, and as we behold the awful price they paid, help us to highly resolve that, so far as in our power to prevent, such horrors must never be again. Father of light, Author of love, help our weak humanity to put away from civilization the monster evil of war, and bring in the reign of peace and good will, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and to whose cause we dedicate ourselves anew to-day. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. O CHRIST, who by thine atoning blood hast made our warring natures one, so making peace, we thank thee for this season which recalls to our minds the close of a great and terrible war. As men in times of battle offer themselves to die for their country, so may we now, as we worship with our offering, dedicate ourselves to consistent living for the kingdom of God. We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we thank thee for all who have offered their lives for their country, either by dying in her defense or by serving through the years as living sacrifices. They have imitated him who hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, who

was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. We now present our offerings unto thee. Bless them, we pray thee, and help us to rededicate our lives to God and country. We ask it in the name of him by whose stripes we are healed. *Amen.*

3. O God, keep us from garnering up the riches of our love for the praise of friends when they are gone. But let us pour it out upon the heads of the living, remembering that love is like the widow's cruse of oil—the more that is given the more we have to give. Bless to the advancement of thy kingdom of love and grace the offerings we bring this day. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

4. FOR THE establishing of social justice and international friendship, for the liberation of oppressed people, for the uplifting of the downtrodden and the enslaved, and for the enlightenment of those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, give peace in our time, O Lord. To this end receive and use our offerings of to-day. We ask in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

5. AS WE bring our offering we pray thee, O God, our Father, to give to the nations of the world a new heart of comradeship, that every people may bring its tribute of excellence to the common treasury, and all the world go forward in the new and living way which Christ hath consecrated for us—the Christ who now liveth and reigneth, with thee and the Spirit of Truth, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. ALMIGHTY God, Father of humanity, to whom all nations are dear, humbly, reverently, we lift up our

hearts in prayer. Through a long night of strife and sorrow unutterable thou didst lead us to the dawn of a new day of peace, and we praise thee and give thanks. How wonderful are thy ways upon the earth, chastening, subduing, lifting up, and casting down nations in this judgment hour of history. Hush thou the clamor of our thoughts, quiet the fever of our hearts, that we may be still and know that thou art God, working out thy mighty will in the midst of human tragedy.

O thou who keepest covenant with justice, and hast shown us thy power in the triumph of right over might, purify our hearts and establish our minds in justice and goodwill. Thou hast called us to share with thee in the order and rule of the world; move upon the wills of men everywhere, and lead the peoples into paths of unity and faithfulness. Endue us with wisdom, O Lord, that we may discern the way of thy will and walk in it; inspire us with a passion for the reign of righteousness and the practise of justice.

Before thee, O Lord, each nation, each soul, is laid bare, stript of all disguise; try us and see if there be any evil way in us, search us and make us true. Thou alone knowest all; thou alone art good enough and wise enough to judge justly and with mercy. Out of the chaos of our time, bring, we pray thee, that kingdom of God of which thy prophets have dreamed in every age, when men and nations may walk before thee in friendship, held by ties of obligation and honor to the service of thy eternal goodwill.

O thou Spirit of the Living God, ever brooding over the life of man to bring forth new and fairer worlds, our hope is in thee. Lord, we are helpless without thine aid, foolish without thy wisdom; so teach us that we may see the way of thy steps and follow it. Help us to yield our-

selves as instruments of thy power, working with thee in the fulfilment of thy large purpose of goodwill, finding healing for our sorrows in service. May our worship to-day be after the mind of Christ, as members of one holy family, in his name. *Amen.*

2. DEAR LORD, we pray for peace. Thou hast put in the heart of man a love of peace, and yet the mind of man has never been able to achieve it. Thou hast made him dream of the time when swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning-hooks, and when men shall forget the art of war. Thou hast sent into the world the Prince of Peace, thine own dear Son, and yet after all these centuries of Christian living the kingdom of heaven is only just at hand. The soul of man is overshadowed by his instruments of destruction, and the heart of man is aghast at the death-dealing forces he has let loose.

Save us, O God! Save us from ourselves. Save us from our own passions, from pride and fear and hate. Save us from the road to ruin along which we were so rapidly travelling.

Make us desperately afraid of war and all that follows in its wake. May the fear of the Lord come upon us, and a deep awe of the human soul. May we remember thy commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," and may we be afraid to take the life which thou alone canst give. May the blood of innocent men shed by innocent men cry from the ground. May the horror of it strike into the souls of all that they have no heart left for fighting. Replace the lust of war with hatred of war, and when evil men plan war and seek to inflame their fellows to go out and kill, may the heart of man reply, "We will not kill our brothers."

Give to us a resolute purpose, that will not be denied,

to find some better way than war for the settling of disputes between nations. May we put aside prejudice and partizanship and all false pride and agree together that the strong and the weak alike shall submit their cause through orderly, judicial procedure, to the reason and conscience of mankind. Grant that even the most powerful of nations shall agree to abide by the reasoned judgment of their fellows and that the strong shall seek no rights denied to the weak. Grant that the mind of Christ shall prevail among all peoples that name his name, and even among the peoples who receive him not as Lord and Master.

May a just and lasting peace be established on the basis of human forbearance, such as will insure the healing of the wounds of conflict and a renewing of the bonds of brotherhood. Grant that Christ's spirit of love may more thoroughly pervade the life of nations as well as of individuals; that national jealousies and suspicions may be abated, and that the pagan and selfish elements in our civilization may be rooted out. Teach thy children, O God, to love justice rather than power, to desire service rather than rule. Grant to this affrighted, startled world that quietness and confidence which shall be its strength; give to men everywhere a mind at liberty from itself and a sure trust in thee, the God of nations.

May thy Kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We ask for the King's sake. *Amen.*

3. O God, who hast set us in families and made of one blood all people to dwell on the face of the earth, we ask thy help that we may fulfil thy great words of brotherhood and love. Thou art love, and only he that loveth can know thee and have thee abide in him. We beseech thee, O God, that we may learn of thee how to love and

be gracious. Make us understanding and sympathetic and kind. Teach us that finest of arts which is how to live together.

We pray for every home, that it may be a place of encouragement and peace, of inspiration and rest, of courage and comfort. May there be no misunderstanding or distrust, no impatience or selfishness, no supersensitiveness or loneliness. May all be kind, one to another, tender-hearted, for Christ's sake forgiving one another. May they bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ. We pray for them away from home. May they have good friends and true who will in some way fill in the loss. We pray for friendless and lonely folk wherever they may be. God, have them in thy tenderest care.

We thank thee for friends, for their patience and sympathy, their generosity and understanding, which make rough places smooth and heavy burdens easy to bear and life more worth the living. O God, increase the number of friendly people in the world and multiply good will that the dream of peace on earth may come true.

We thank thee for the church, which is a larger family bound together by common love for thee, our Father, and devotion to Jesus Christ, our Elder Brother. We thank thee for the ties that bind us together and unite each to each. We thank thee for the spirit of love and loyalty and a real feeling of brotherliness. We pray that everyone who enters this church, even an occasional worshipper, may feel it a homely place and recognize an atmosphere of kindness and hospitality. May it be a place to which all may turn as a source of courage and help.

We pray for the city in which we live. We pray for all worshipping folk and all who are heedless of the call

to worship. We pray for those who are kept busy on the day of rest and worship, the servants in the home, the policemen who guard our streets, the firemen who safeguard us from fire, and the workers on railways that transport us from place to place. May they somehow feel the spirit of this day of worship and in some way be brought nearer to thee.

We pray for the nations of the earth, which are only larger families of men. Save them from fear and pride and greed. May the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and may peace be established, with righteousness and justice the world around.

Help us to realize that great hope which thou hast put in the human heart. May all men come to hate war and refuse to lift violent hands against their fellows. So may thy Kingdom come and thy will be done. We ask it for the King's sake. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING DAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "HOW EXCELLENT is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light."

2. "MAKE A joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

3. "PRAISE WAITETH for thee, O God, in Zion; unto thee shall the vow be performed. O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come."

4. "O THAT men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men."

5. "BLESSED BE the Lord, who daily loadeth us with his benefits."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O LORD, who hast set mankind in families and nations, binding us by ties of race and ancestry, and en-

riching us with common possessions and traditions, unite us in gratitude and loyalty to thee. For the rich gifts thou hast offered us in times of peace, for social intercourse, industrial co-operation and mutual help, we thank thee, O God. For the leisure which allows us to enjoy music and art and literature; for just government, for law and order, and for good traditions in our social and business life; for our national institutions for the promotion of health and education, the relief of want, the restraint of evil, and the assistance of the weak, we thank thee, O Lord. For the increase of social sympathy among us, the growing indignation against wrong-doing and oppression, the new discontent with needless suffering and disease; for honest public service for the good of the community, we thank thee, O Lord. For the promise of the coming of thy kingdom, and the joy of working for it with our fellow-men; for all who have been leaders and pioneers, and for all men and women who have been faithful in the daily work of life, we thank thee, O Lord. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY God, ruler of all nations, we enter into thy gates with thanksgiving and into thy courts with praise. We know that the Lord he is God, and that he hath made us and not we ourselves. Thou art our Creator, our Preserver and our bountiful Benefactor. We would call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless and magnify thy holy name. Thou hast not dealt so with any nation. We see thy hand in all our nation's history. For all our manifold blessings, national as well as personal, we thank thee and praise thy glorious name. But in the midst of our thanksgiving we would remember our sins. May thy great goodness lead us to repentance. Forgive our national sins and shortcomings. Save us

from forgetfulness of thee. Save us from the lust of power and of pride. Train us up as a chosen people to accomplish thy purpose. So may we become a great nation in righteousness and great in thy service. All of which we ask in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. WE THANK thee, our Father, for the wonderful world in which we live; for the glory of the heavens, for the beauty of earth; for the bright morning following the star-crowned night; for the song of birds, the hum of bees, the fragrance of flowers, and the laughter of children, for the industry of men and women, for all thy gifts of love. As again the lengthening shadows creep across our pathway, may we redouble our energies that no labor of love may be left undone. So fill us with thy presence, so lead us by thy Spirit this day, that in our homes we may be patient, in our occupations sweet, in our social relations brotherly, in all things Christlike. Grant that these autumn days may be our harvest season; that our lives may reap the fruitage of a well-spent year. Let us be happy with the joy of the flaming hillsides, with the glory of the Indian summer, with the ecstasy of the ripening grain; happy in the harvest of our high hopes, in the garner of sweet memories, in the ripening of true friendship, in the reaping of bounteous blessings of the buoyant spring and brimming summer; happy in the knowledge of some little kindness done, some great good gained; happy in our new strength, our surer hope, our wider lives and loftier vision. Let these be our jubilant days, the days of our rejoicing. We ask in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. AGAIN, O LORD, the earth hath yielded its increase and thou hast crowned the year with thy goodness. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Thou hast blessed us far beyond our utmost deserving. We have assembled on this national Thanksgiving Day to give thanks unto Jehovah, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High. As we present our offering, let it express a part of our thankfulness for thy multiplied mercies. Bless the cause to which it is given. Receive, with our offering, the praise of our lips, the love of our hearts and the renewed consecration of our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. THROUGHOUT ANOTHER year, O God, thou hast crowned our lives with thy goodness and caused our cup to overflow. Receive, we beseech thee, these offerings made for the maintenance of thy church in this country and the world. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

3. GRACIOUS GOD, we thank thee for thy bounteous provision for our needs. We adore and praise thee for thy Son Jesus, who, though rich, became poor that we through his poverty might inherit eternal riches. In his name we dedicate these offerings to thee. *Amen.*

4. EVERY GOOD gift and every perfect gift cometh from thee. With gratitude for thine unnumbered mercies we bring our morning offerings. Be pleased to accept them at our hands and use them for the upbuilding of thy kingdom. Through Christ. *Amen.*

5. AS WE bring our offering to-day we thank thee, O God, for the happiness of our earthly life, for peaceful homes and healthful days, for our powers of mind and

body, for faithful friends and for the joy of loving and being loved. We pray that these blessings may come to abound throughout all the world and to all people. In the name of Christ. *Amen.*

6. FOR ALL thy blessings in creation, for the beauty of the earth and sea and sky, for thy manifold works and the wisdom with which thou hast made them all, we thank thee O God, as we bring our offerings to-day. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank thee for the Spirit of praise. We thank thee if we can discern the signs of thy providence upon the common road. We thank thee if we have not forgotten the miracle of yesterday and its sacred lessons for to-day. But if our gratitude is scanty because our remembrance is faint, let thy Holy Spirit quicken our memories that we may come into thy presence in the multitude of thy mercies.

We thank thee for thy church. We adore thee for her communion in Christ Jesus. We bless thee for the Blood of the Vine in which she bears her fruit. We glorify thee for the radiant record of her triumph, for her miracles of grace, for her cloud of witnesses, for her martyrs who have been faithful unto death. We thank thee for her prophets of the Word, for her sweet singers who by their hymns have enriched our devotion and for all her unnamed laborers who have toiled in obscure parts of the field. We bless thee for her inheritance. We thank thee for her inconceivable wealth and glory which is yet to be revealed. Graciously deepen her purity. Baptise her with the holy fire of passionate love, and deign with her to hasten thy kingdom from above.

We thank thee for our country. We bless thee for all her hallowed privileges and freedom. We praise thee for all her men and women who have consecrated their strength to her highest good. We thank thee for enlightened laws, for all wise restrictions of personal liberty, for all that is creative of comradeship between man and man. We bless thee for all larger vision, for wider fraternal sympathy, for the inspiration that seeks the peace and good-will of the race. God bless the President and all who share the government of the realm. Endue them with thy Holy Spirit, and use them as ministers in the kingdom of thy truth.

Graciously draw us all into closer kinship with thyself. Save us from slothfulness in thy service. Deliver us from the infidelity of sin, and from the snare of the world, the flesh and the devil. May our family life be sweet and holy, and may the Lord break the Bread of Life at the common meal.

These mercies we ask through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

2. HEAR OUR prayer of thanksgiving, O God, for all thy goodness and lovingkindness shown toward us. We are grateful for all the things which make our lives comfortable and happy. We give thee thanks for the many who have served us during the past—those who have provided our tables with food, those who have made the things we wear and use, those who have written out their thoughts for our inspiration, those who have entertained us with their songs; in being debtors to many we feel that we must render more than pay—we would express our thanks to thee. Accept our thanks for all the relationships of life, the passing contacts with people which

make life interesting and varied, the friendships which enrich, the kinships which satisfy our hearts with love.

We render praise for all things beautiful. We should like to count the number of them and give thanks for all but this is far beyond us. We must be satisfied with less than this. But hear our thanks for all beauty in nature and all beauty in life, all beauty Divine and every expression of it.

We thank thee, O God, our Father, for the rich heritage which is ours from days that are past. Sometimes it seems that every privilege we enjoy is tinged red with the blood of our fathers. We thank thee for liberty and safety, for opportunity to achieve, for institutions that nurture and protect us, for our country that guarantees us opportunities in the presence of happiness, for schools that help in the pursuit of knowledge, for churches that spur us on in the pursuit of character. We thank thee for the burden of work that is ours and we thank thee that ours is a heritage which considers that work dignified and ennobling.

We thank thee, O God, for the rich things of the spiritual world which complete our joy. We think of the forgiveness of our sins, the commandments of the law, the free grace of the Gospel, the salvation of Christ, the power of winning victories over temptation and sin, the ability to rise above failure and tribulation and pain and defeat and cause these to ennoble us rather than degrade us, for the life of spiritual achievement, for the hope of immortality and eternal life.

We thank thee, O God, for our Lord. We thank thee for his manifestation of thee, for his exemplification of every virtue, for his sinless life, his sacrificial death, his glorious Resurrection. We thank thee for Him as our

Ideal, our Example, our Saviour, our Elder Brother, our Friend.

Accept these thanks, O Lord, meager, incomplete, only as a token of the deeper, fuller thanks that we would render unto thee. Help us to give thee thanks for all things rather by the mood and manner of our lives than by the speech of our lips.

Hear our prayer of petition. Forgive our sins. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Help us to grow into the image of the character of Jesus. Bless our homes and loved ones. Grant that thy kingdom may come more fully and more quickly in places near and in places far away.

We intercede for all men, everywhere, until all men whatever their depth of shame or height of nobility, may become men who are Christ's and men who are Christ-like.

Grant to little children vision, to youth inspiration, to middle age wisdom, to the aged the radiance of heaven shining upon their lives. And all we ask is in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

ADVENT

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "PREPARE YE the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

2. "ARISE, SHINE! for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee; and Gentiles shall come to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising."

3. "BEHOLD I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the Messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in."

4. "UNTO YOU that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O God, who hast so loved the world as to give thine only Son for its redemption, grant us joyful hearts as we approach the Advent time. With angels and spirits of thy saints in glory, we bow before thy throne, O Christ, remembering with thanksgiving that thou wert once a child of Bethlehem. Thou, too, hast entered by the

gates of birth into the mystery of our humanity. By an infant's weakness and the obedience of a son thou hast laid hold upon our mortal life. Thou hast shared its pains and sorrows, its labor and repose. Thou hast known the rest of friendship and the bitterness of misunderstanding. By the fellowship of mother's love in Bethlehem and father's care in Egypt, thy boyhood in the fields of Nazareth, thy handling of the workman's tools and wages, thou hast made thyself our Brother. As we bring gifts to others whom thou hast given us for love and care, we offer thee our hearts' thanksgiving and the service of our lives. Our richest gifts are thine. Help us to minister in loving kindness to our brothers, and let thy peace be multiplied upon the earth and thy will be accomplished in the affairs of men. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we have come to seek thee here in thy sanctuary this holy Sabbath morning. Visit us, we pray thee, in this hour. Our hearts cry out for thee. Soothe and quicken and satisfy us. Our Father, we give thee thanks to-day for the mighty yearning of the human heart for the coming of the Saviour, and for the constant promise of thy Word that he was to come. In our own souls we repeat the humble sighs and panting aspirations of ancient men and ages. We know that our own souls are in darkness and sin without faith in him who comes to bring God to man and man to God. We bless thee for the tribute that we can pay to him from our very sense of need and dependence, and that our hearts can so answer from their wilderness the cry, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." In us may the rough places be made smooth and the crooked straight, the mountains of pride brought low, and the valleys of despondency lifted up. O our Father, prepare

thou the way in us now, and may we be ready to welcome anew thy Holy Child, our Saviour from sin—our Saviour from its guilt, its power, its penalty. *Amen.*

3. ALMIGHTY GOD, we beseech thee, grant unto thy people grace that they may wait with vigilance for the advent of thy Son our Lord, that when he shall arise from thy right hand to visit the earth in righteousness and thy people with salvation, he may not find us sleeping in sin, but diligent in thy service and rejoicing in thy praises, that so we may enter in with him unto the marriage of the Lamb; through his merits, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

LORD, OUR GOD, in reverence and adoration we stand before thy fathomless and inexpressible love. Thou art not enthroned worlds distant in the heaven—no: Thou dwellest in us and around us. Thou hast come in thy Son, into the world, to seek the lost, to make joyful the sad, to make rich the poor, make strong the weak, make blessed the sinner. Oh, help us above all to be able to understand aright thy kindness, to receive willingly thy grace, to open ourselves heartily to thy love.

Let this Christmas mark truly a bringing of grace for each house, for each person, young and old, for poor and rich, for high and low, but primarily for the lowly and the abandoned, the tired and the despondent, the bowed down and the worried! Let us deeply experience the holy Christ festival of this year; let it be to us a blessing now and for all time!

Lord God, eternal Father, appear for us in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

CHRISTMAS

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "BEHOLD, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people; for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

2. "WHEN THEY saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

3. "THE DAYSPRING from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. OUR HEAVENLY Father, we thank thee for the Christmas season with all its gifts and gladness. We thank thee for the love in so many hearts that finds expression in gifts and good-will; for home-gatherings and reunion of separated ones; for home joys and social festivities; and for all the gladness that brightens the weary world in this Christmas time. May we know that all these blessings are showered upon us by the hand of the Babe of Bethlehem, and that it is his spirit working in humanity that is transforming our modern world. May not the abundance of material gifts smother the spiritual significance of the day and the gifts cause us to

forget the real Giver. Move us with generous impulses to share our good things with others, and may the Spirit of Christ touch our lives with a new spirit of love and joy that will bless and make beautiful all our days. And this we ask in his name. *Amen.*

2. LET THERE be in us, as we bow at the cradle of Jesus, a new nativity of faith and hope and the charity that thinketh no evil and abideth forever. May the festival of his birth touch us to a new gentleness toward all our fellow men in whom, however dimly, thou dwellest, and move us to more liberal devising in behalf of those who know the bitterness of want. Freely we have received the greatest Gift; freely may we give our best. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

3. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, in whose grace all our light is born and in whose love is the fountain of our festivity, mercifully lead us into the holy secret of Christmastide. Take us into the innermost room of its sacred joy. Forbid that we should remain in the outer courts, dwelling amid the merely carnal pleasures, satisfied with the merriment that dies with the day and contented with the happiness that passes with the fading flower and the withering leaf. Bring us into the eternal things of this blessed season, into the things that abide, into the joy that rings Christmas bells all the year round. Teach us, our Father, the full meaning of Jesus' birth. Make our hearts to glow with gladness in the great redemption Christ brings us—in the great salvation he brings from sin, from its guilt, its power, its penalty. Bring into the right way those who are going astray. Give confidence to the trembling ones. Free bonded hearts. Open blind eyes. Unstop deaf ears. And pardon, we beseech thee, all our sins. May this blessed birthday

of the Saviour become the birthday of a new creation and awaken everywhere the love that manifests itself in unfailing good will among men. We ask in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

4. ETERNAL FATHER, we grow gray and world-weary, but thou art eternally young. Thy mercy grows not old, thy power is never weary, thy love is new with each new day. In thy presence the greatest of earth is as a little child, and the deepest wisdom of man as the prattle of a babe. As we bow at the cradle of Jesus, in whom thou hast shown us that thou art in a life like our own, humbly we give thanks for the hand of blessing he has laid upon every cradle. Let there be in us a new birth of faith and hope and wonder, and the charity which thinketh no evil. Touch our minds to gentler thought, our hearts to a wiser pity, and our hands to a more liberal devising in behalf of those who know the bitterness of want. If we are left alone, may we seek some one to bless in the spirit of him who is so great a blessing; some one to remember in the name of him who is the gentlest memory of the world. Hasten the day when his faith shall fill the hard old earth with shapes of purity and gladness as of old it filled the sky with forms of beauty and song. Make us such little ones of thine as we never yet have been, joyous in service, trustful and triumphant, in the name of Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. OUR SAVIOUR and our Lord, as came the Wise Men from the East, so have we come to worship thee, and offer thee our treasures in token of all we have and all we are, and all we hope to be. Accept and bless our offering. We ask in thy name. *Amen.*

2. DEAR FATHER, thou givest all: the breath of life, the pulsing heart, the power of thought, the skill of hand, the will to do, the happy home, the love of friends, the beauty of life, the peace of Christ; all are gifts of thy boundless love. In gratitude, we bring to thee our gifts, sacrifices of human love, the purest gold that we possess. We pray thee to refine them and coin them in the mint of thy divine purpose, to the end that the song of the Christmas angels may echo and re-echo in ever-increasing chorus throughout the wide, wide world. In Christ's name we ask. *Amen.*

3. HELP US to remember, our Father, that the first act of worship offered to the new-born Christ was that of giving. When they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Receive and bless our offerings; bless us as we bring them, and use them for the extension of thy kingdom in the world. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

4. OUR GOD and Father, we look to thee for strength and wisdom to play our parts and live our life. Thou hast sent us into the world even as thou didst send thy Son, our Saviour. Thou dost entrust us with posts and services for thy kingdom. Help us to be good stewards of time, talents, and money. Wilt thou graciously accept our offerings which we bring this Christmas Sunday morning and dedicate to the service of thy cause and kingdom. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

5. WHAT SHALL we render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward us? We would bring an offering and come into thy courts. Receive and bless these gifts we bring this Christmas day, and bless us as we bring them. Use them for the extension of thy kingdom. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

6. THY KINGDOM come; thy will be done, on earth as it is done in heaven. May we be helpers of the kingdom. To this end receive and bless the offerings which we bring thee this Christmas day. Use them to advance thy cause. Use them, and bless us as we lay our gifts on the altar of service. We ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

7. (Offertory Sentence). "AND WHEN they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

8. WE BLESS thee, our Father, for thine unspeakable gift, in sending thy Son to be our Saviour. Thy great Gift has set all the world to giving. Receive the offerings we bring thee now, and use them for the extension of thy kingdom in the world. Bless us also as we bring them and may we increasingly learn to abound in this grace also. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. LIKE THE shepherds of old, O God, we hear a song in the air and glory breaks upon us, for the time of the year has come when we celebrate the advent of our Saviour. Our voices swell the mighty chorus of praise which is lifted up to thee from all the corners of the earth. Our hearts are joined with a multitude of others in adoration. We bow before thee in worship for thou art our God and Christ is our Lord. Help us to express our thanksgiving for thy great gift of a Saviour by the gladness of our hearts, by the tokens of love and friendship which pass between loved ones and friends, by the lives of victorious faith which we may live in the power of thy Spirit. Like the Wise Men of old may we rejoice

with exceeding great joy, may we bow down and worship, may we open our treasuries and make gifts to the King, then may we return to our accustomed places over a new road with new experiences and new opportunities of devotion and service. We pray, O Lord, that the whole earth may be receptive unto the salvation of Jesus. Enable us to open our hearts unto his cleansing forgiveness. Help us to prepare the way for him so that he may come and cast out sin. Grant that his peace may prevail among the nations of the earth. May good will prevail everywhere. We desire, O God, thy special ministry unto all who are away from their homes and are lonely. Grant, too, thy grace unto those who are lonely at home because of absent loved ones. Comfort in a special way those who have been bereaved of their dear ones. Ease the pain of those who must bear suffering. Bless the rich and teach them how to transmute gold into happiness and peace and goodness. Bless the poor and give them the higher riches which are eternal. Extend thy favor unto all who have met with misfortune, unto children who have lost their parents, unto those in asylums and hospitals. And may this day carry grace and a message of goodness unto criminals in penitentiaries and jails.

During all this Christmastide and as the old year passes be thou an abiding presence in our homes, ministering unto us thy peace and power, and receiving from us the praise of our lips and the adoration of our hearts. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

2. OUR FATHER and our God, let us feel thy presence as we worship thee now. Give us this Christmas day and throughout the year the true Christmas spirit. For the gift of thy Son, Jesus Christ; for the peace that he

brings; for the good-will that he inspires; for the revelation that he has given of thee; for all his precepts and example we praise and thank thee. At this glad Christmas time we remember that Christ was willing to leave the home in glory and come down unto this earth—willing to close behind him a palace gate when the world was opening for him nothing better than a barn door. For his humble birth; for his struggle with poverty, for his self-sacrifice and devotion; for his wonderful life; for his atoning death on Calvary; we praise and thank thee. Help us to keep Christmas in a way that will be well pleasing to thee. Direct our thoughts and teach us to pray a Christmas prayer. Give us grace to share each other's joys and each other's burdens bear; in health of body and strength of mind; in calm trust in thee; in the faith that can go alone in the dark; in the love that suffereth long and is kind; in the hope that grows brighter until it comes to the glory of the perfect day, God keep us every one. From the darkness of doubt; from the sin of selfishness; from evil pleasures and false pride; from hate and malice and envy; from fear and cowardice and weakness; God save us everyone. By keeping the Christmas carol fresh in our hearts; by going to the poor and needy with the help that they require; by cheering speech, kindly deeds and sunny smiles; by good wishes, helpful acts, and earnest prayers, God help us, every one, to show forth the Lord Jesus. In giving and getting; in praise and prayer; in joy and sorrow; in singing and sighing; in eating and drinking; in gladness and merry-making; in glad comradeship with those that are near; in kind remembrance for those who are far away; in sweet memories of those who have gone beyond; in children's joy and parent's gladness; in good

cheer; happy contentment and patient waiting, God bless us, every one. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

3. WE BLESS thee, our Father, for the advent of thy Son, by whose coming earth was made richer, life more holy and heaven more real. Most loving mystery of all, as thou didst not lose him in the giving so we have not lost him by his return to thee. Not as the world giveth, givest thou, O Lover of souls! We remember before thee also those who have passed from our midst into the fuller light of thy eternal Presence. We seem to give them back to thee, dear God, who gavest them to us. Yet what thou givest, as in the Christmas mystery, thou takest not away. For what is thine is ours always, if we are thine. And life is eternal; and love is immortal; and earth is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight. Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see farther; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; draw us closer to thyself that we may know ourselves nearer to our beloved who are with thee. Grant us to feel thy guiding hand in all the scattered details of our daily life, and in all dimness of our spirits to have a sense of thy everlasting arms upbearing us. Thus, may the brightness of this Christmas-tide find "good tidings of great joy" upon our lips. May the wondering hope of the shepherds be mirrored in our hearts. May we travel on in faith, with the wise men, following the star of love which leadeth us to the Eternal City and its King. We ask in the name of the Christmas Christ. *Amen.*

HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "YE WERE not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

2. "HE SHALL drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head."

3. "LET US draw near with true hearts and full assurance of faith."

4. "THEY THAT wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for him, and he shall give thee the desires of thy heart."

5. "WHO SHALL ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."

6. SEEK YE the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

7. "AND WHEN the hour was come Jesus sat down and his disciples with him. And he said unto them: With desire have I desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer. For I say unto you: I will not eat it henceforth, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

8. "SURELY THE Lord is in this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

9. "THIS IS that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O GOD, whom heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain, but who dwellest with those who are of a humble and contrite heart, look in mercy upon us as we are gathered here in thy house this Sacramental Sabbath morning. Grant us thy Holy Spirit, we entreat thee, O Lord, to guide us in our worship, and to indite our petitions that they may be agreeable to thy will and bring us answers in peace.

But we must come to thee, O God, as sinners. O thou Fountain of all goodness, who knowest even the thoughts and imaginations of our hearts, we confess that we have sinned and done evil in thy sight. If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But we thank thee that there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no living man be justified. But with thee there is mercy, and plenteous redemption. Remember not the sins of our youth, nor our transgressions:

according to thy mercy remember thou us, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Cause us to hear thy lovingkindness, and to know the way wherein we should walk. Teach us to do thy will; for thou art our God. O Lord hear! O Lord forgive! O Lord hearken and do! Help us, O thou God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name; and deliver and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY AND everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask. Incline our feet into the way of thy commandments. May thy will become our delight. Enrich our apprehension of thy grace, that we may worship thee in more devoted service. Lead us into the secrets of thy truth. May we find our truest home in thy holy fellowship. Save us from dwelling in the outer courts, satisfied with the husks of devotion. Bring us to the table of thy grace and feed us with hidden manna, so that in the strength of heavenly food we may be able to serve thee in faithfulness. May thy Holy Spirit possess this service. May his power be realized in all our communion. Let all the hidden springs of the soul be unsealed, and quicken every power which will enable us to lay hold of the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. We ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. ALMIGHTY GOD, thou hast in Christ Jesus provided a feast for all people and thine invitation has gone forth to the ends of the earth. Hast thou not said unto us, If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink? And

hast thou not said, Blessed are they that hunger, for they shall be filled? Our Father, we come to thee with the abundance of our wants. We are overwhelmed by our spiritual needs. Away from thee we have found no water that meets our cravings and no bread which gives us strength for our daily task. Mercifully grant unto us the restoring fellowship of thy grace, and strengthen us with the sustenance of thine own love. May we be very hungry for thy feast, and in thy blessed communion may we ascend into the sanctified life, and sit with thee in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Graciously help those to whom unseen things are very unreal. Speak to their hearts in tones that they will understand. Come near to them in thy seeking compassion, and lead them to the secret which means life. Help us in our efforts to pray. May we ask believing that it will be given us. May we knock in confidence that the door will be opened. May we seek in the assurance that we shall find. Draw us into blessed communion through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

4. ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast revealed through him thy nearness to humanity, and art graciously inviting us to the worship of thy house and the fellowship of thy table; make us partakers of thy fullness, and let us enter into thy courts with joy. Prepare us, that as we receive these sacred symbols of thy love, we may feed on thee in our hearts by faith. Work in us unfeigned sorrow for wrong-doing, and suffer us not to return to the sins which we have solemnly renounced; neither let us brood over the sins which thou hast freely forgiven. Confirm our faith in those great mysteries of redeeming grace which we are this day to show forth. Inspire us with ardent love for

the Saviour, and give us sincere and humble purposes of new obedience, that we may with a true heart devote ourselves to his service. Visit our fellow-worshippers with the comfort of thy companionship, and satisfy our souls with thy goodness. Let the presence of Jesus inspire us through all the coming days, and may the desire of our souls be to the remembrance of Him. *Amen.*

5. BE THOU the companion of our way, O blessed Lord, even as thou didst go with thy two disciples as they journeyed to Emmaus. Our hearts, like theirs, are often heavy and our spirits sad. We too have been looking for the redemption of Israel and the glories of the kingdom; but instead of dawn the shadows seem to gather and our hopes grow faint. Oh, speak to us as thou didst speak to them. May our hearts be quicker than our minds and burn within us, as thou openest the promise of the brotherhood that is to be. Reveal thyself to us in the breaking of this Bread of Communion. And when we have discovered thee, vanish not from our sight, but remain with us still, our fellow-traveler, guiding us, upholding us, strengthening us, and at the journey's end receiving us with our brethren into thy kingdom of service and of love. We ask in thy name. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

(Collections for the poor)

1. "WHOSO HATH this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

2. "AS WE have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

3. "YE ARE not your own; ye were bought with a price, even the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

4. "CHARGE THEM that are rich in this world, That they do good, that they be rich in good words, ready to distribute, willing to communicate."

5. "BUT TO do good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

6. "HE THAT hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay again."

7. "WHOSO STOPPETH his ears at the cry of the poor, he also will cry himself, but shall not be heard."

8. "HE THAT giveth unto the poor shall not lack."

9. "HE THAT despiseth his neighbor sinneth; but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he."

10. "HEREBY KNOW we love, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him?"

11. "AND WHOSOEVER shall give to drink unto one of those little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

12. "IF A brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled, notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

13. "INASMUCH AS ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

14. "BY LOVE, serve one another." "Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

15. "YE KNOW the grace of our Lord Jesus, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

16. "BLESSED IS he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."

17. "TRUST IN the Lord and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

18. "IF THOU draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul: then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness shall be as the noonday."

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

(Collection for the poor)

1. OUR HEAVENLY Father, as we worship with our offering in this holy, sacramental hour, may we be devoutly mindful of him who offered himself for us that he might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify unto himself a people peculiarly his, zealous of good works. With our offering of money, take thou, O Lord, our bodies, souls and spirits in a renewed consecration. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

2. FORGIVE O Lord that we have sought thy gracious gifts for ourselves alone. That we have thought to receive and absorb thy bounty. Deliver thy Church from the

corruption of unfriendliness. Quicken in us a new appraisal of the least of those thou dost love; and in all humility before God may we find the abundant life in the enriching friendship both of the humble and of the exalted. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. FOR THE revelation of thy love and for newness of life in our Saviour, for the blessings brought to us by thy holy church, for the grace of the sacraments and for our fellowship with thee in Christ, we thank thee, O God, as we lay our offerings on thine altar to-day. *Amen.*

4. O THOU who givest us every good and perfect gift, help us to realize the blessed obligation of giving. Help us to estimate aright our partnership with thee, and share the burden of the world's need. Help us to bring our whole tithe into the storehouse, and test thy promise of abundant supply. Through Christ we ask. *Amen.*

5. O CHRIST, who, though thou wert rich, yet for our sakes didst become poor, that we through thy poverty might become rich, we thank thee for this privilege of offering our gifts for the assistance of those who need our helping hand. Bless thou the givers that their souls may be enlarged. Bless also those who disburse these offerings. And graciously bless the recipients, that they may see in this bounty a symbol of thy love and a tangible evidence of the communion of saints. We ask it in the Saviour's name. *Amen.*

6. O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received; we beseech thee to accept this offering of thy people. Remember in thy love those who have brought it, and those thy needy ones for whom it is given; and so follow it with thy blessing that it may promote peace and good-will among men, and advance

the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

7. ACCEPT OUR offering, Lord. Human hands will still continue to handle it but as money set apart, and as money that belongs to thee. Bless them in their trusteeship and may the offering accomplish much good. Through Christ we ask. *Amen.*

8. OUR FATHER, we cannot make thee rich with gifts of gold and silver. We can only enrich thy great heart by giving thee our hearts. And so, with this offering, we consecrate ourselves to thee anew, to be wholly thine. Bless our offering. Bless those for whose relief and comfort it has been brought. We ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

PRAYERS AT THE LORD'S TABLE

1. ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast revealed through him thy nearness to humanity, and art graciously inviting us to the worship of thy house and the fellowship of thy table; make us partakers of thy fulness, and let us enter into thy courts with joy. Prepare us, that as we receive these sacred symbols of thy love, we may feed on thee in our hearts by faith. Work in us unfeigned sorrow for wrong-doing and suffer us not to return to the sins which we have solemnly renounced; neither let us brood over the sins which thou hast freely forgiven. Confirm our faith in those great mysteries of redeeming grace which we are this day to show forth. Inspire us with ardent love for the Saviour, and give us sincere and humble purposes of new obedience, that we may with a true heart devote ourselves to his service. Visit our fellow-worshippers with the comforts of thy companionship, and satisfy our souls with

thy goodness. Let the presence of Jesus inspire us through all the coming days, and may the desire of our souls be to the remembrance of him. *Amen.*

2. ETERNAL FATHER, who hast sent thy Son to redeem us from every curse, grant us to see him evidently set forth, crucified for us. We thank thee for his life in the world, and all he endured for our sakes according to thy will, the burden of human unbelief, the contradiction of sinners, the anguish of the garden, the bitter pain and shame and loneliness of the cross. We are for ever amazed to think of thy love shown to the evil, thankless race of men in giving thy beloved Son to suffer and die for them. Enable us to see and especially as we sit here at his table, that he is our sin-bearer, and that through his death alone we can have salvation. May we live by faith in him, being crucified with him to the world, and raised with him into newness of life. We praise thee for the eternal power of his atonement, the door it opens to men everywhere, the redemption it provides for all who believe, the heaven of reconciliation and love into which it brings the soul. May the blessing of thy covenant of mercy come on all the nations. May grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. INFINITE AND eternal God, as we thy children eat this Supper together in remembrance of the Lord Jesus, we pray for a new vision of thy truth. We are blinded by earthly passions and led astray by the things that perish. We confess our sin before thee. Create within us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us. Quicken in our souls an inner eye and illumine it with thine everlasting light. We would see Jesus. Oh, that we might remember that we have sat with him in the Upper

Room and beheld his glory, full of grace and truth. Where remembrance fails, may faith and desire do their greater work. Grant us the power of the spiritual mind, and so transfigure these passing symbols that we can hear the Master say to his disciples, "This is my body given for you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the remission of sins. This do in remembrance of me." May we hear him say, "I am the way, the truth and the life." And grant, O Father, that as we discern the Lord's Body, we may with humility and joy behold thy face, shining from the glorified face of Jesus Christ our Lord. In his name we ask. *Amen.*

4. ETERNAL GOD, in our very search for thee we need the help of thy Spirit lest we go astray. Let thy constraining influence lead us into the secret place. Guide us through the outer courts of the temple into the sanctuary of the spirit. May the means of grace be highways through which we pass to the courts of the King. May no transient thing hold us in bondage and put our souls to sleep. May our worship bring us into that most intimate fellowship where we shall find the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. We would sit at thy sacred table as thy invited guests. Interpret our needs by the insight of thy love for us. Give unto us the bread with thine own hands. Let no human ministry stand between our souls and thee. May we all feast upon the satisfactions of thy grace. Ease our yokes and lighten our burdens. Make our sorrows the instrument of vision. May our disappointments incite us to deeper spiritual communion. Let our joys be to us like wings, helping us to soar into heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Deepen within us the spirit of sacrifice. May we hunger to share

with others what we receive from thee. Let the entire service be full of divine power, and may we all find ourselves at heaven's gate. We ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

5. ALMIGHTY GOD, our Father, it is by thy grace that we attain unto holiness, and it is by thy light that we find wisdom. We humbly pray that thy grace and light may be given unto us in this service, so that we may come into the liberty of purity and truth. Wilt thou graciously exalt our spirits and enable us to live in heavenly places in Christ Jesus? Impart unto us a deep dissatisfaction with everything that is low, and mean, and unclean, and create within us such pure desire that we may appreciate the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. Wilt thou receive us as guests at thy table? Give us the glorious sense of thy presence, and the precious privilege of intimate communion. Feed us with the bread of life; nourish all our spiritual powers; help us to find our delight in such things as please thee. Give us strength to fight the good fight of faith. Give us holy courage, that we may not be daunted by any fear, or turn aside from our appointed task. Make us calm when we are to tread an unfamiliar road, and may thy presence give us companionship divine. Meet with us, we humbly pray thee, in all the appointed means of grace, and may the joyful remembrance of this service inspire us in all the common life and service of after days. We ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. IN THIS hour of memory help us, O Lord, to remember all that is well to remember and to forget what

is better forgotten. We remember the great dreams of youth, when we were unselfish and chivalrous and wanted to go forth and do great things for the world. May these memories summon us again to the heroic and brave and true. We remember when love was young and hope was living and faith was strong. We remember the great and hallowed experiences of earlier days which ought to enrich our lives evermore. We remember the great comrades of the past, princely men and queenly women we have known, strong and radiant spirits whose paths crossed ours. We remember the sweet souls which we have known and loved and lost a while. We remember the sickness and sorrow which led us near to thee. We remember our unanswered prayers and know that had all been answered as we wished it would have brought leanness to our souls. We remember our failures which were stepping stones to real achievement. We remember the cup that would not pass but instead, angels came to minister to us and we were made strong to drink the cup. We remember Gethsemane and Pilate's hall and Golgotha and all those last scenes of the whitest life that was ever lived. May we watch with him this hour, and behold his Cross as though we sat by his side. May the greatness of his gentleness so captivate our imaginations as to swing us away from our selfish selves and into his great train. Help us to say with him, "Not my will but thine be done." We have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin. We have eaten the bread of sorrow, but not as he did. We suffer little wrongs at the hand of man but are not persecuted and slain as was he. Teach us with our lives ever to say, "Not my will." There are seasons when thy best gift to us is pain and thy truest comfort is sorrow. We do not know. Our thoughts are short, short thoughts and thine are long, long thoughts.

To what end, O Lord, are our bodies being broken and blood shed, for broken and shed they are. Day by day tissue is being destroyed and the blood grows cold, and day by day the waste is repaired. But day by day our bodies are broken and blood shed. We remember that it was to a great and glorious purpose that Christ's body was broken and his blood shed. So may it be with us. So may we be larger natures, more radiant spirits, masters of hope, and conquerors over death. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. O God of love and peace, be with us as Host in this holy communion. Help us in the spirit of thy love and peace to share it with the world for whose salvation thou gavest thine only begotten Son, and may these symbols of his slain body and shed blood impart unto us his holy passion for human brotherhood. May his atoning sacrifice, made for all lives and all lands, give to them all his spirit of unity, peace, and concord, and thus fulfil thy promise that nations shall learn war no more. Grant peace to the world thou lovest, O God of love and peace, we beseech thee, through thy Son the Prince of Peace.

Eternal Father, who art the God of the living and not of the dead, encompassed about by a great cloud of witnesses we lift up our hearts and make our glad confession unto thee in this communion hour. We bow our knees unto the Father from whom the whole family in heaven and on earth is named: we believe in Christ who brought life and immortality to light. We believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints. We remember with grateful hearts and kindling affection the innumerable company of the wise and good who have confessed thee before men in their generation and

who now sing the songs of the Eternal Life. They are not exiles on some far-distant coast, but are near to us and to thee in the fellowship of the Spirit. Sustain us in this trust and keep us steadfast in our endeavors until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. We ask in his name. *Amen.*

MISSIONARY SUNDAY

CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. "THE HOUR cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

2. "GOD BE merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, and thy saving health among all nations."

3. "THE LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry and will save them."

4. "THE LORD is gracious and full of compassion, long-suffering and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all and his tender mercies are over all his works."

5. "EXCEPT THE Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his way."

INVOCATION PRAYERS

1. O GOD, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that

are far off and to them that are nigh; grant that all men everywhere may see thee and find thee. Bring the nations into thy fold, and add the heathen to thine inheritance. O our Saviour, who didst come to seek and to save the lost and to whom all power is given in heaven and on earth; hear our prayers for those who, at thy command, go forth to preach the Gospel to every creature, for those who help to heal the world's sicknesses, for all who teach young and old the saving truths of thy Word. Preserve them from all dangers; from perils by land and perils by water; from the deadly pestilence; from the violence of the persecutor; from doubt and impatience; from discouragement and discord; from all the devices of the powers of darkness. While they plant and water, O Lord, send thou the increase; gather in the multitude of the heathen; and convert in Christian lands such as neglect thy great salvation; that thy name may be glorified, and thy Kingdom come, O Saviour of the world; to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

2. GOD OF all peace and consolation, who didst gloriously fulfill the great promise of the Gospel by sending down the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, to establish the Church as the house of his continual presence and power among men; mercifully grant unto us, we beseech thee, this same gift of the Spirit, to renew, illuminate, refresh, and sanctify our souls; to be over us and around us like the light and dew of heaven, and to be in us evermore as a well of water springing up into everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. WE REMEMBER, our Saviour, that thou hast bidden us to pray for the coming of thy Father's Kingdom, in which his righteous will shall be done on earth as it is

now done in heaven. We have treasured thy words, but we have forgotten their meaning, and thy great hope has grown dim in thy Church. We bless thee for the inspired souls of all ages who saw afar the shining city of God, and by faith left the profit of the present to follow their vision. We rejoice that to-day the hope of these lonely hearts is becoming the clear faith of missions. Help us, O Lord, in the courage of faith to seize what has now come so near, that the glad day of God may dawn at last. As we have mastered Nature that we might gain wealth, help us now to so master the social and spiritual relations of mankind that we may gain justice and righteousness and peace and a world of brotherhood. We ask in Christ's Name. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

1. "HOW SHALL they believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent?"

2. "SAY AMONG the heathen that the Lord reigneth."

3. "AND THE Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

4. "ASK OF me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." "Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth."

5. "ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and on earth; go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

6. "I WILL be exalted among the heathen; I will be exalted in the earth."

7. "THY KINGDOM come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

8. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have everlasting life."

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

1. WE HEAR the word, our Father: "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent?" We bring our offering that Gospel messengers may be sent. Use and bless the offering, and us as we bring. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

2. OUR FATHER God, may thy kingdom be powerfully preached by thy believing children. Let the minds of men be opened to thy gospel, their attention arrested and their minds subdued. Teach us faithfulness in the work of thy kingdom at home and abroad. Receive and bless the offerings we bring to-day, through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

3. GRACIOUS FATHER, we pray for all those who are away from thee. Bless those in far away lands who seek to reveal thy Father heart to thy children of many races. Help us to surrender our wills to thine. May our lives be cleansed from all defilement. Accept our offering. Purify our hearts, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

4. HELP US to remember that now as of old the Son of Man looks upon a sorrowing and dying world with pity unutterable, and that he asks us to give the Bread of Life. Receive the offerings we bring thee and use them for the salvation of men. Through Christ we ask. *Amen.*

5. GOD, OUR Father, give us to-day a vision of the world's need of a Saviour, and help us, here and now, to give ourselves more wholly and completely to the task of making disciples of all nations. In his name we ask it. *Amen.*

6. O HEAVENLY FATHER, we behold the promise of thy redemption. We long for the coming of thy kingdom; for the salvation of all men, and for the conversion of the kingdoms of this world into the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. For the working out of this, thy purpose, endow thy children, we beseech thee, with humility, faith, self-denial, and spiritual power, that all we are and have may be at thy command until redemption shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Receive and bless this our morning offering. And all we ask for thy love's sake. *Amen.*

7. O GOD, we pray for all people who on earth do dwell. Thou knowest the needs of all and we would but assure thee of our love and sympathy for all. We would if we could bring thee the desires of our hearts for all who know thee not. May our offerings to-day be a means of making known thy love to many who have never heard of thee. We ask through Christ the Lord. *Amen.*

8. GRANT THY blessing upon all who have the planning and executive work of our Board of Foreign Mis-

sions. In all their problems and difficulties wilt thou guide and direct them that in their hands thy work may prosper. Bless the gifts we bring for the extension of thy kingdom. We ask through Christ. *Amen.*

9. O GOD, thou knowest what it costs to break away from the traditions and influences of false religions. Bless, we pray thee, all those who have dared to come out on Christ's side in those lands where it is a strange and unpopular thing to be a Christian. In Christ's name we ask. *Amen.*

10. DEAR FATHER, we ask for thy blessing upon the mission schools. May the teachers know the truth and teach it faithfully. Control them by thy Spirit, that each day they may please thee, by teaching that which shall promote the progress of thy Kingdom in this world. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

11. WE PRAY thee, our Father, for all those missionaries who are now at home on furlough. Let thy blessing be upon them. Heal those who are sick, strengthen those who are worn out, and may they all be permitted to return to their work well and strong again. In Christ's name we ask. *Amen.*

12. FATHER, THY children in many lands are suffering for righteousness' sake. May they not only endure but rejoice that they are counted worthy to suffer for Christ's sake. In the name of Christ we ask. *Amen.*

13. WILT THOU, O Father, strengthen and support the native Christians on all our mission fields. Give them power to overcome temptation and all that tends to pull them back into heathenism again. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

14. DEAR LORD, touch the hearts and lighten the understanding of all who teach and all who learn in Christian schools. Hasten the day when all will long to sit at the feet of the Master and learn of him. In his name we ask it. *Amen.*

15. O THOU great Physician, bless the medical missionaries and their work. Give strength and skill and that blessing that shall not only heal the sick and suffering, but will also win souls to the service of the Master. We ask it in his name. *Amen.*

16. HELP US to remember, our Father, that love comprehends and seeks the most distant. It leaves the ninety and nine and goes out after that which is lost. Accept, we pray thee, our offerings this morning and use them as messengers of salvation and hope to those who know thee not. We ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

17. FOR THE privilege of engaging in the great enterprise of the kingdom we give thee thanks, O Father. It lifts us out of petty and trifling things; we are no longer circumscribed in our activities; we are no longer limited in the area of our influence; we can serve men far and near. For the broadening and emancipating call of the Gospel to service we give thee thanks. Bless our offering. For Jesus' sake we ask. *Amen.*

18. WE HEAR thee, our Father, saying: "Ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." That men everywhere may know and love Christ we desire and to this end bring our offerings this morning. Use them. Bless them. Bless us as we bring them. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

19. O God of love, we bless thee for all who give themselves to thee in service of their fellow men. Grant unto them clear vision, true judgment, with great daring, as they seek to right the wrong, and so endue them with cheerful love that they may minister to the suffering and forlorn even as thou wouldst, O Saviour, Lover of Souls. *Amen.*

20. WE PRAY thee, O Lord, for a blessing upon all those in our Church engaged in our Foreign Mission work. Bless our foreign missionaries and their families, our foreign mission secretaries and treasurer, and all those helping in the offices. May they all be faithful to the task thou hast committed unto them. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

21. ALMIGHTY AND most merciful God, we humbly beseech thee to pour out thy Holy Spirit upon all our missionaries at home and abroad, and to crown their labors with success in the gathering of souls into thy kingdom. Strengthen them, we pray thee, with thy good Spirit, and comfort them with a sense of thy presence, that they may teach and preach to the upbuilding of thy kingdom and the salvation of souls. Make us to realize that they are doing our work, and grant us grace to support them out of the wealth of good things which thou hast bestowed upon us. Accept the offerings we bring thee now to this end. Bless them and bless us as we bring them. We ask in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

22. WE HEAR thee saying The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and the liberal soul shall be made fat. With gratitude for thy mercies and a desire for the extension of thy kingdom in all the earth we bring our offerings this morning. Receive and bless them and bless us in bringing. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

23. O BLESSED Lord, who hast never left thyself without witnesses of thy goodness and power, we beseech thee to give assurance of thy presence to those who have gone forth as thine ambassadors in distant lands. Sanctify them, we pray thee, with the Holy Ghost. Teach them to endure hardship. Give them perfect mastery over the flesh, and a ready desire to do thy will. Gird them with thy truth; make their hearts burn with thy word, that they may win souls for thy honor and glory. To this end bless the offerings we bring thee now. We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

24. O LORD, we beseech thee, pour out thy Holy Spirit upon all the native converts in distant lands, that as thou hast begotten them again unto a lively hope, so they may ever be followers of thee as dear children. Make them to be ready for every good work for the salvation of those around them, that so by their zeal and faithful testimony, by their holy and consistent lives, they may glorify thy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYERS

1. OUR SAVIOUR and Lord, who didst give us the great commission to disciple all nations, we bless thee that the fresh annals of thy Kingdom pour floods of light into our minds, floods of love into our hearts and floods of resolution into our wills. We bless thee that thy spirit of service, of love for all who have need, a rising tide that sweeps around the world under the attractive power of thine uplifted sacrifice, penetrates all lands, all classes, all religions. We rejoice that it moves men, women and children; leads them to live in the slums, the tropics, the frozen North, and all for thy name's

sake and for thy children. And thou openest all doors of opportunity to us, every nation and tribe. And now native converts are uplifted by the world-wide impulse and freely spend out of their poverty and their burdened days to tell the story of the Cross. The national life of heathen lands feels and manifests the gracious influence. Nations are born as in a day. The glorious visions of Isaiah and Ezekiel and Daniel and John, and thine own, almighty Saviour, are becoming history before wondering eyes.

Almighty Captain of our salvation, inflame our hearts also with thy compelling love. Enroll us every one in thy forces militant to march, and fight, and suffer hardship, and sing exultant triumph, blessing thy holy name that we may share thy sufferings for the lost world, thy labors, and, by thy grace, the everlasting joy of our adorable, redeeming Lord. We ask in thine own name. *Amen.*

2. O God, thou who art acquainted with the difficulties and longings of Christless souls everywhere and knowest their needs, thine all-embracing love extends to the lowliest and least of them and thou canst make the message of thy grace a message of hope. We pray thee be with all who dwell in lands unenlightened by the Gospel. Show thyself to them in their darkness and ignorance as a God of love and break the bonds of sin and superstition with which they are enthralled, and make them free. Cause them to respond to thy loving-kindness as it is revealed to them by the missionaries of the cross as they teach and preach thy Word, and heal and comfort those who are in want. Renew and sanctify thy people who dwell amid the shadows of false religions and hallow their homes with thy presence and power.

Make thou thy servants who live in enlightened lands willing to support and encourage their fellow laborers and substitutes who carry the message of life to those who know it not. Bless those who give and those who receive and fill the whole earth with thy glory. *Amen.*

3. ALMIGHTY GOD, our Father in heaven, we have beheld thy glory and thy goodness, shining in the face of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind. Send forth thy light and thy truth, we beseech thee, and draw all people that on earth do dwell into the fellowship of Jesus and the joy of thy salvation. O thou who hast so greatly loved the world, that thou hast given thine only-begotten Son, the Redeemer, communicate thy love to the heart of all believers, and inspire thy Church to preach the Gospel to every creature. O thou who rulest by thy providence over land and sea, defend and guide and bless the messengers of Christ. In danger, be their shield; in darkness, be their hope; enrich their word and work with wisdom, joy, and power, and let them gather souls for thee in the far fields white unto the harvest. O thou who by thy Holy Spirit workest wonders in secret, open the eyes that dimly look for light to see the day-star in Christ; open the minds that seek the unknown God to know their heavenly Father in Christ; open the hearts that hunger for righteousness to find eternal peace in Christ. Deliver the poor prisoners of ignorance and captives of idolatry. Break down the bars of error, and dispel the shadows of the ancient night. Lift up the gates, and let the King of Glory and the Prince of Peace come in. Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom! Strengthen thy servants to pray and labor and wait for its appearing. Forgive our little faith and the weakness of our endeavor. Hasten the day

when all nations shall be at peace in thee, and every land and every heart throughout the world shall bless the name of the Lord Jesus, to the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

4. ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we bring thee thanks, and a prayer, but most of all we bring thee ourselves. We find there is no peace for us save as we are yielded to thee; nor any lasting satisfaction save as we are living thy life—and doing thy work. We ask, each for himself and herself, what part hast thou assigned me in the tasks of thy kingdom? Prepare us for sacrifices. Open our eyes to see. Somehow, weave each one of us into thy majestic enterprise of saving the world. Constrain us henceforth to measure our privilege and duty, not by our comfort or our preferences, but by the needs of others and the calls of thy Providence. Quicken our sympathy for people around us and far away. Bless the work we are now trying to do—and add to it. Make us strong to do our work better and to take up new tasks. Let our hearts be brought to throb with concern for men until we cannot help assuming new burdens. So intensify our longings as to multiply our power. We ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

5. OUR FATHER who art in heaven; Who because thou didst so love the world gavest thine only begotten Son for its salvation, grant to us to have that new world-wide consciousness which was of old in thy heart and in the heart of thy Son our Saviour. He said that many should come from the East and the West to sit in thy Kingdom. He answered the petition of the heathen widow. He blessed the wicked woman of Samaria whose people, he said, knew not whom they worshipped. In his words the note of world-wide love and world-wide

triumph constantly appears. He, the country carpenter who never touched in his short life the great ones of earth, loved by few, hated and slain by the leaders of Church and State, bade us make all nations his disciples. Many have dreamed such dreams, but he alone dreamed true. We bless thee that always that world-wide consciousness has flamed in some true hearts, like William Carey cobbling shoes and gazing at the map of the world which his Master was to conquer. We bless thee that in our days that world-wide consciousness leaps from heart to heart and from land to land as never before, and that to-day, led by countless consecrated missionaries, millions of converted heathen worship thee.

May this world-consciousness possess our hearts, making great our small souls, glorifying, as we daily walk with thee in the path of the world's salvation, our little lives, our petty opportunities, our weak endeavors, for Christ and the world's sake! *Amen.*

6. WE THANK thee for what thou hast wrought in these last hundred years for the world's salvation, and for the amazing acceleration of the Kingdom's progress now; for the thrill that runs through all the world at the name of Christ; for the changed tone of the secular press in every land; for innumerable testimonies to mission works from monarchs, diplomats, legislators, judges, generals, travellers of every sort, so that volumes are published to contain them. We see now with grateful hearts that thou hast indeed taught thy disciples to become fishers of men, and that the long night of toil breaks in a glad morning of such bursting nets that helpers are called for just to gather the trophies of thy grace. We rejoice that all science and art and forces of civilization work with thy missionaries, so that, like

thee, they heal the sick and feed the hungry, leading the nations to desire our Gospel.

Great Saviour, take us, teach us, make us fishers of men; give us some happy, self-denying, toiling share in thy great work!

We bless thee, with hearts both shamed and exultant, for the present-day cloud of witnesses in heathen lands; for the new eleventh chapter of Hebrews even now a-writing; for the thousands of native martyrs in Africa, China, Manchuria, everywhere, tortured but not accepting deliverance, dying in torment, but calm, singing and praying, loyal and brave, preaching Christ to the end. We glory in the gifts and graces, so wonderful, so world-wide, of heathen converts to our Lord. We long to know one by one that roll of names strange to our English minds, written in the life book of the Lamb, gathered out of every nation and kindred and people and tongue in these recent years, of heathen, humble, poor, uncultured, often uncivilized, whose shining records of love, loyalty and service must win thy tenderest love, our holy Lord.

O holy Lord, look in pity upon us, children of light and leading and opportunity, who love and serve thee so falteringly, so selfishly, so half-heartedly, yet too often so self-applaudingly, and make us more like them! We ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

7. DEAR FATHER, we thank thee for home-staying loves, loves that find their objects in the home, the church, the community. We thank thee, too, for far-travelling loves, loves that find their objects in the big world, loves to which the world is a neighborhood and mankind a brotherhood. We pray for those who, driven by far-travelling loves, go even to the uttermost parts

of the earth to tell the story of God's love as it is in Christ Jesus. We pray that they may be upheld, strengthened and comforted by our prayers, our sympathies and our hopes. We pray that they may find favor with all the people and may go in and out among them, approved of all, loved of all. May they show the love of God both by their lives and by their teachings. May those among whom they work find in our religion not the destruction but the fulfillment of their own, as the sun fulfills the morning star. May thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We ask it in Christ's name. *Amen.*

II. PRAYERS ADAPTED TO VARIOUS CEREMONIES AND SERVICES

AT GROUND-BREAKING SERVICE

HOLY and Most Merciful God, we would invoke thy presence in the labors to which thou hast called us; and for this task we need pure hearts and reverent spirits. As we shall wait before thee, may thy people engaged in the building of thy house be aware of a power mightier than our own, working within us, quickening us, and giving us strength for the accomplishment of all that is worthy. As thou hast promised to be an everlasting Companion among men in the pursuit of whatsoever is worthy, we beseech thee that thy blessings may attend us in every phase of the task of building. O thou who lovest all and hast need of our talents, use our little lives in thy wise designs. Forbid that our courage should falter or that our faith should fail. Touch our spirits with thine own, and make this our duty, delightful to our souls. May we find in thy service our supreme joy, and at last may our names be written among the faithful who counted it all joy to be workers with thee. Graciously bless all who are praying and toiling and giving for the cause so dear to our hearts and to thy heart. And now, O God, for whose glory we build our temples of worship, beckon, that we may follow; command, that we may obey; and evermore let thy Spirit lead us onward. In the name of Christ. *Amen.*

AT CORNER-STONE LAYING

1. LORD JESUS Christ, Son of the living God, true Corner-Stone, immutable Foundation, establish thou this stone which we plant in thy name. And do thou, who art the beginning and the end, in whom all things were created, vouchsafe thy presence, that this our work, undertaken for thy service, may be carried on and perfected to the praise and glory of thy holy name, who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

In this place may the faith flourish, the fear of God, the love of the brethren. Here may the voice of prayer continually be heard, the voice of rejoicing and salvation, the voice of praise and invocation of thy most glorious and honorable name, even the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, henceforth and for ever.

Let thy Holy Spirit, O Lord our God, descend continually and rest upon this place; that our gifts and all our service may be sanctified, and our hearts, and the hearts of all who labor upon this building, may be cleansed and purified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, who art present in all places of thy dominion to accept and further the services of all thy creatures, hear us, we most humbly beseech thee. Accept the humble service of all who contribute from their substance unto this building, and let thy blessing rest upon them, and upon those who labor in erecting it; and grant that the progress of this work may be secured against every accident and may be carried forward without hindrance unto perfection; through Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

2. GREAT IS the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the Great King.

According to thy Name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness. Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments. Walk about Zion, go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks; consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death.

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the Highest Himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. As well the singers as the players of instruments shall be there. All our springs are in thee.

The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. To whom coming as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious; ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Behold, I lay thy stones with fair colors, and thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows

of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders with pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. That our sons may be as plants grown up to their youth; that our daughters may be as corner-stones polished after the similitude of a palace.

He shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

Therefore, now, to the end that these prospects and promises may be fulfilled to the people of this congregation and to their descendants, God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Father who art in Heaven, In thy Name we lay this corner-stone. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

1. ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, thou dwellest not in temples made with hands, neither art thou worshipped with men's hands, as though thou needest anything, seeing that thou givest to all life and all things. Yet do thou, O Lord, who delightest thyself in the praises of the sanctuary, accept the offering of this house which thy people have builded to the glory of thy holy name. We consecrate it to thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to be henceforth the house of God, and a gate of heaven; we set it apart from all common and worldly uses, for a temple and a sanctuary, where thy holy gospel shall be preached; where the prayers of the church shall be made unto thee without ceasing; where thy praises shall be devoutly sung; where the ordinances of the Word shall be duly administered; to which thy people shall throng with cheerful steps.

When thy Holy Word is preached in this place may

it be spoken in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power; speak thou to the people, O Lord, through the lips of thine ambassadors. Here when thy people come to offer their gifts upon thine altar, let them consider Him, who, though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich.

Let the glory of the Lord fill this house, and the Spirit of God descend and dwell in his church. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY GOD, whose blessing has followed this church through all her history, grant that thy benediction may attend and hallow the services of these days of dedication. Awaken within us the desire to dedicate ourselves in loving devotion to thee and to thy church.

Bless those who have given of their time and substance to making the House of God beautiful, and may a new sense of the beauty of the Lord come upon all our people to the end that his praise shall be on every tongue, and his love in every heart. In the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. O ETERNAL GOD, mighty in power, and of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands, and who hast been graciously pleased to promise thine especial presence in whatever place even two or three of thy faithful servants shall assemble in thy name to offer up their praises and supplications unto thee; vouchsafe, O Lord, to be present with us who are here gathered together to consecrate this house, which we have builded, to the honor of thy great name, separating it from henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary and common uses and consecrating it to thy service.

Accept now this house. We give it to thee. It is ours

no longer. It is thine henceforth. We cannot hallow it; do thou hallow it. May the glory of the latter house be greater than the glory of the former!

God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Father, who art in heaven: To thee we consecrate it. In the name of Christ. *Amen.*

4. O ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, thou dwellest not in temples made with hands, neither art thou worshiped with men's hands, as though thou needest anything, seeing that thou givest to all life and breath and all things; when we bring thee our best, we serve thee only with what is thine own; and when we have done all, we are but unprofitable servants. Yet do thou, O Lord, who delightest thyself in the praises of the Sanctuary, accept the offering of this house which thy people have builded to the glory of thy Holy Name. We consecrate it to thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to be henceforth the House of God, and a gate of heaven; we set it apart from all common and worldly uses, for a temple and sanctuary, where thy Holy Gospel shall be preached; where the prayers of the Church shall be made unto thee without ceasing; where thy high praises shall be devoutly sung; where the ordinances of thy Word shall be duly administered; to which thy people shall throng with cheerful steps. How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts!

When thy Holy Word is preached in this place may it be spoken in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power; speak thou comfortably to thy people, O Lord, through the lips of thine ambassadors, and let thy Word be as the fire and as the hammer to

hardened hearts. When thy Holy Sacraments are here administered, may those spiritual graces which the outward signs do represent and signify, flow into the hearts of thy servants; so that receiving the seal of Baptism, they shall be thine indeed and when they shall receive the Holy Communion, they shall indeed feed by faith on the Body and Blood of Christ. Here let God be worshiped in spirit and in truth, and let not our Father's house be made a place of merchandise. Here when thy people come to offer their gifts upon thine altar, let them consider him, who though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. Let the glory of the Lord fill this house, and the Spirit of God descend and dwell in his Church.

We ask and offer all in the name of thy Son and our Saviour. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN

1. ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who hast made the heart of man to respond to the touch of thy Spirit as a harp to the hand of a master, give to us the vision of thy glory as we worship thee. As the morning stars sang together at the creation, and all the myriad voices of nature lift a chorus of praise unto thee, so may our hearts be attuned to adore thee. May this instrument of music which we here dedicate to thy service contribute to the happiness and welfare of thy children. May its melodious tones cheer the hearts of those who gather in thy holy temple. When little ones are brought here for consecration to thee, and when men and women here enlist as followers of Christ, may its benediction fall sweetly upon them.

When marriage vows are spoken here in the brightness of life's morning, or when in the sadness of farewell we pay the last tribute to our sainted loved ones, may its deep-toned message bring a blessing to the spirit. So may this organ give strength to our lives and help forward the triumph of thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. O God, who by thy servant David didst appoint for the Levites instruments of music of the Lord, to praise thee, because thy mercy endureth forever, graciously vouchsafe to receive at our hands this organ, which we dedicate unto thy service, that we may sing our songs thereto all the days of our life in the house of the Lord; and grant us to do so with the spirit and with the understanding also, that we may be counted amongst them who shall sing the New Song before thy throne.

Sanctify, O Lord, we beseech thee, this instrument of music of the Lord, made to praise thee, because thy mercy endureth forever, and let it be blessed and hallowed, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

3. UNTO THEE, O Lord, who inhabitest the praises of Israel, to the glory of thy name in the service of thy house, and in mememory of thy departed servant A— B—, we dedicate this organ.

We thank thee for the giver and his gift. May its soothing tones bring rest and peace to weary and troubled spirits, make gentle the froward and kindle pure and holy aspirations in all our souls. May it help us to make melody in our hearts unto the Lord, and to worship in the beauty of holiness: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

4. ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who wast pleased in thine ancient church to appoint instruments of music for thy holy worship; accept, we beseech thee, this newly added organ to thy service, and prosper thou our undertaking. Receive the prayers and praises of all those, thy servants, who shall call upon thee here. Consecrate with thy favor and protection the walls we have builded and the pipes of praise we have fixed therein. Bless and sanctify the words we here utter and the songs we sing, to thy glory and the good of the souls whom thou dost love; and thine be the honor and the glory and the thanksgiving, with the Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF A PULPIT

1. O THOU who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said that thy Word is perfect, converting the soul; give thy blessing, we beseech thee, upon this Pulpit which we now reverently dedicate to thee. Grant that what is read and spoken from it may so drop as the rain and distill as the dew, that the unsaved may be won to thee and thy people who hear it may thereby be made fruitful in good works, to thy honor and glory, who livest and abidest for ever.

Accept, O Lord, the offering of this Pulpit, and grant that from it the good tidings of salvation may ever be faithfully preached, the Holy Scriptures ever rightfully interpreted and the common worship of thy people be conducted in spirit and in truth, we ask through Christ. *Amen.*

2. OUR BLESSED Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who didst command thy chosen ministers to go into all

the world and preach the gospel to every creature, we pray thee to bless, sanctify and hallow this Pulpit which we now place in this church. Bless the givers who have made it possible. Bless the church and people who now receive it. And grant, we pray thee, to all who shall speak therefrom, knowledge of thy truth, plainness of speech in rebuking evil, winsomeness in calling to the good, and persistency and boldness in declaring the whole truth. Grant this, blessed Saviour, for thy mercy's sake, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF PULPIT BIBLE

ALMIGHTY God, who hast spoken to us through thy revealed Word, we pray thee to bless and sanctify this Bible. May thy ministers who read it in the appointed services of the church, and the congregations who hear it, be made wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF COLLECTION PLATES

ALMIGHTY God, who delightest in the freewill offerings of thy people, we pray thee to bless and hallow these Collection Plates. Grant that we may all offer thee of our substance according as thou hast blessed us. If we have much, may we give plenteously, and if little, may we give gladly of that little, thus helping forward thy kingdom in the world, and also, we trust, laying up for ourselves a good foundation for the world to come, that we may attain unto eternal life. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF CANDELABRA

O FATHER of Lights, with whom is no shadow, who didst say, let there be light, and there was light: we give our thanks to thee that thou hast also given us the great spiritual light of the world, Jesus of Nazareth, our Lord, in whose light we may walk, and whose light we may reflect to those who now walk in darkness. May these candles and the light of their burning bring to remembrance in us the Light of Life, that we may be transfigured into his radiance, and carry his brightness to all men; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF COMMUNION TABLE

1. O MOST glorious God, we acknowledge that we are unworthy to offer to thee anything belonging to us; we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, to accept this Communion Table which thy servants now desire to offer to thee; and to bless, hallow and sanctify it that it may be used to thy glory. And earnestly we pray thee to grant that whomsoever shall receive from this table the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Christ may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity and true repentance, and, being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of sins and all other benefits of his passion, through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. O LORD God, who madest earth and heaven and all that is therein; who didst give thy Son to us that he should shed his blood for us upon the cross and

give us the sacrament of that sacred blood and fruit of the vine; we beseech thee to accept, to bless, hallow and sanctify this Communion Table, setting it thus apart henceforth from all unseemly uses and for the one holy purpose for which it is designed. And we pray thee, O Father, that we, with all thy faithful ones, who shall come hither to receive the Bread of Life and the Wine of Refreshing, may come with true humility and penitence and with a fervent desire to follow thy holy commandments and ways all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

3. O LORD, our heavenly Father, whose well-beloved Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, didst offer up himself to thee upon the altar of the cross, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and didst ordain a pure, unbloody sacrament of bread and wine, as a memorial before thee forever; grant unto us, we beseech thee, and to all who shall approach this table, that we may come before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts; with bodies undefiled and minds sanctified, and may perform a service acceptable unto thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF COMMUNION SET

ALMIGHTY GOD, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging unto us; yet we beseech thee to accept, bless, sanctify, and hallow these Communion Vessels (this Communion Set) that are to be used in commemorating the love of thy Son in dying for us. We bless thy holy Name that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants

to contribute to the beauty, honor and reverent worship of thine house through these memorials. Enlarge, we beseech thee, this spirit of freewill offering in all thy people, that thy kingdom may be advanced and the salvation of men be accomplished. Grant, O God, that whosoever shall receive through these gifts the blessed sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ may by thy grace be spiritually and permanently built up in the life of faith and holiness, to the glory of the blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF BAPTISMAL FONT

BLESS, O Lord, and sanctify, we humbly beseech thee, this Font which we now set apart for thy service, and grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee by holy baptism may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from sin and death and be received as a living member of Christ's Church; and may ever remain in the number of thy faithful children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF CHURCH SPIRE

O LORD God, almighty and most merciful, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less temples built with hands, but who also dwellest with men, and delightest thyself in the assemblage of thy people; cleanse our hearts, we beseech thee, from all evil thought and desire, and vouchsafe thy divine presence and blessing, that both those things may please thee which we do at this present, and also that we may at length obtain thy favor with life everlasting in thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Holy, Blessed, and Glori-

ous Trinity: three Persons and one God: To Thee we dedicate this spire. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Our Father which art in heaven: To Thee we dedicate this spire. Son of God, the Only Begotten of the Father, Head of the Body, which is the Church: Head over all things to the Church: Prophet, Priest and King of thy people: To Thee we dedicate this spire. God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son: given to be our abiding Teacher, Sanctifier, and Comforter; Lord and Giver of Life: To Thee we dedicate this spire. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF CHURCH BELL

1. ALMIGHTY GOD, who by the mouth of thy servant Moses didst command to make two silver trumpets for the convocation of solemn assemblies, be pleased to accept our offerings of this, the work of our hands; bless, hallow and sanctify it with thy heavenly benediction, and grant that through this generation and through those that are to come it may continually call together thy faithful people to praise and worship thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Amen.*)

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be called by the sound of this bell to thine house of prayer may enter into thy gates with thanksgiving, and into thy courts with praise; and finally may have a portion in the new song, and among the harpers, harping with their harps in thine house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Amen.*)

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall by reason of sickness or any other necessity, be so let and hindered that he cannot come into the house of the Lord, may in heart and mind thither ascend and have his share

in the communion of thy saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Amen.*)

Grant, O Lord, that they who with their outward ears shall hear the sound of this bell may be aroused inwardly in their spirits, and draw nigh unto thee, the God of their salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Amen.*)

Grant, O Lord, that all they, for whose passing away from this world the bell shall sound, may be received into the paradise of thine elect and find grace, light, and everlasting rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory for ever and ever. (*Amen.*)

Grant, O Lord, that all they who shall minister to thy service by ringing this bell may be filled with all reverence and godly fear, and, mindful of the sacredness of thy house, may put away from them all idle thoughts and light behavior in the discharge of their service, and so continue in holiness of life, that they may be counted to stand with them who praise thee evermore in the heavenly Jerusalem. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY GOD, who didst sanctify material things to the honor and glory of the church; we entreat thee to bless and hallow this bell set apart for the services of thine house. May its voice be a joyful sound to all Christian people, bidding to prayer and praise, and a right keeping of thy holy day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. BLESSED be thy name, O Lord, that it hath pleased thee to put into the heart of thy servant to offer this memorial to thy praise and honor. Let thy blessing be upon him, his family and his substance. Accept, we

beseech thee, his charitable work. Give him abundantly of thy grace in the present life, and in the world to come life everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF TOWER CHIMES

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Creator of all things, who hast caused thy light to break forth from the darkness, so that order and beauty and harmony might fill the earth, hear us as we pray: Grant that these Chimes, which are to be dedicated to thee, may yield a fruitful ministry. May they bear a message of strength to the faint-hearted, a message of assurance to the sick, the afflicted, and the sad. May they sing sweet melodies of Christian faith to all children; may they recall the claims of Christ to all wanderers, thus bringing them back to God; may every ringing of these Chimes be a summons to worship and an invitation to pray; may their tones resound so sweetly over this place that they suggest and present the music of the higher life of heaven; and as we now designate these Chimes as prepared for thy worship and dedicate them to this high service, let thy blessing attend us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL WINDOW

1. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, who didst inspire the artists of thine ancient Church to adorn the tabernacle and the temple with splendid color and rich device; accept and bless we pray thee this Window, placed here to magnify thy goodness and to remind us of thy faithful servant (now passed unto his (her) rest). Grant that its symbols and its story may

assist our faith and augment our hope, so that we and all who may behold shall more fully love and serve thee here on earth, and in thy good time behold the full light of thy presence. Thou didst indeed give thy Son to be the light of the world, and through his humanity didst reveal unto us divinity; grant that in our partial and imperfect symbols of thy truth, and especially in this Window now placed here to honor thy Name and proclaim thy Gospel, we may learn more of thy grace and glory. And as thou hast called us out of darkness into thy marvelous light, grant that as thy sunshine passes through this Window and blazons symbols of thy love, we may receive the teachings thus displayed and be inspired to holier living. We thank thee for the message it carries, for the truths it suggests, for the influence of its beauty. Help us all to cultivate the beauty of holiness. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. O God, who didst give thy Son to be the Light of the world, and through his humanity didst reveal to us divinity; grant that in all our partial and imperfect symbols of thy truth, and especially in the Window now placed here to honor thy Name and proclaim thy Gospel, we may learn more of thy grace and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3. O God, who hast called us out of darkness into thy marvelous light; grant that as thy sunshine passes through this Window and blazons symbols of thy mighty love, we may thankfully receive the teachings thus displayed, and be inspired to holier living by remembrance of the saints of old; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

4. O ETERNAL God, Saviour of thy people, by whose firm will alone the whole wide fabric of the world subsists; accept, we beseech thee, this Window to thy glory and to the sacred memory of thy servant, now entered into thy clearer presence and higher service. Grant that this monument to thy grace in him may be a continual reminder to us who are still in our darker pilgrimage, that it may lift our gaze more and more to that bright realm whither he has gone before; and inspire our hearts and stir our wills to such a devotion to thy service here on earth that finally we shall attain to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for those who love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF A CHURCH PICTURE

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, Author of the true and the beautiful, bless and sanctify, we beseech thee, this Picture which we place in thy house for its adornment. Bless the givers who have made it possible. Bless the church and people who now receive it. Grant that all who look upon it may have a larger and more comprehensive view of the mission of thy dear Son (of the truths which the picture portrays). May they be brought nearer to him and into sympathy with his saving work. May we praise thee day by day for the glorious doctrine of his Incarnation, and by this faith be brought to the life immortal. We ask through his blessed Name. *Amen.*

AT COMPLETION OF CHURCH DECORATION

O Lord God Almighty, who didst put wisdom and understanding into the hearts of Bezaleel and Aholiab, to know how to work all manner of work for the sanctuary, and who, by the mouth of David the King, taughtest Solomon to adorn thy temple; mercifully bless the labors of thy servants who have wrought such beauty in this sanctuary. Bless to the comfort, the inspiration and an increasing sense of worship all who enter this house of devotion. Bless those who conceived and wrought the work and all who offered willingly of their means to accomplish it. Grant that as they have given gladly for thy house on earth they may attain at length unto that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF CHOIR STALLS

VOUCHSAFE, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, to accept, bless and sanctify these Choir Stalls for thy service, and grant that we who are permitted to worship thee in thy courts below may hereafter be numbered with those blessed ones, who, having washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, shall stand before thy throne and serve thee day and night in thy temple above, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF HYMN BOOKS

VOUCHSAFE, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, to accept, bless and sanctify these Hymn Books for use in thy service. Thou art worshipped by the heavenly hosts with hymns that are never silent and with thanks-

givings that never cease; fill our mouths with thy praise. Help us to sing with the spirit and understanding and make melody in our hearts unto the Lord. Help us truly to magnify thy Holy Name; and grant us, with all those that fear thee and keep thy commandments, to be partakers of the inheritance of thy saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF VARIOUS MEMORIALS

1. O MOST glorious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging to us; yet we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of (these memorials) to thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking. Receive the prayers and intercessions of all those, thy servants, who shall call upon thee in this house, and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear. Affect them with a due apprehension of thy divine Majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness, that so approaching thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service acceptable to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. WHAT ARE *we*, O Lord God, and what is this people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. Accept the oblations of thy servants, who in the uprightness of their hearts have willingly offered these things (may be named); and

give unto them a perfect heart to keep thy commandments, thine ordinances and thy sacraments; and be pleased to grant them a greater ability and an increasing love to serve thee with all their souls and bodies, with all their time and all their goods, that thou mayest be honored with all their heart and all their strength. *Amen.*

3. AND HERE we do give unto thee most high praise and hearty thanks for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all thy saints, from the beginning of the world, whose example, O Lord, and steadfastnesses in thy faith, and keeping thy commandments, grant us to follow. We commemorate before thee, O Lord, all others, thy servants, which are departed hence from us with the sign of faith, and now do rest in the sleep of peace; (and especially at this time thy servants of whom these gifts are memorials before thee). Grant unto them, we beseech thee, thy mercy and everlasting peace; and at the day of the general resurrection we and all they which be of the mystical body of thy Son, may altogether be set on his right hand, and hear that his most joyful voice: Come unto me, O ye that be blessed of my Father, and possess the kingdom which is prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

4. BLESSED BE thy Name, O Lord, that it has pleased thee to put into the heart of thy servant to offer this (Memorial) to thy praise and honor. Let thy blessing be upon him, his family and his substance (or her). Accept, we beseech thee, his generous and thoughtful work. Give him abundantly of thy grace in the present life, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

5. O God, who hast chosen material things to be the instruments of divine grace, grant us so to realize the glory of that heavenly fellowship wherein thou callest us to worship thee, that we may the better show our reverence for thy Majesty by our care for thy Holy House, and in the beauty with which we are permitted to celebrate thy sacred functions, may attain to the more faithful acknowledgment of their inward power to the glory of thy great Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT A MORTGAGE-BURNING

O God, thou who art the Great Head of the Church, and in whom we live and move and have our being, we praise and adore thee for thy gracious care over us as a church and people through all the past years. Thou hast been our help and our salvation. While thou hast not made our burdens light, thou hast done for us even better. Thou hast given us strength to bear them. And now that by thy grace this particular load has been lifted, we bless thee that thou hast so taught and trained us in order that we may joyfully bear even heavier loads in the future—if that be thy purpose, to thy glory and to the church's good.

Bless the labors of these, thy servants, wrought for the forwarding of the interests of this church. Bless to the comfort and inspiration and an increasing sense of worship all who enter this house of devotion. Bless those who conceived and wrought the work and all who offered willingly of their means to accomplish it. Grant that as they have given gladly for thy house on earth they may attain at length unto that house not made

with hands, eternal in the heavens. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT UNFOLDING A FLAG

(Appropriate also for Flag Day, June 14)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast cast our lot in this land of civil and religious liberty. We bless thee for the flag that stands as a symbol of such exalted privileges. We pray, O God, that wherever the flag of this nation is unfurled it may be indeed the emblem of liberty, justice and truth. Give to all who enjoy its protection the blessings of progress, of peace, of education and religion. May its white speak to us of purity, its red of that glowing zeal which pleaseth thee, and its blue of the eternal home beyond the stars. May it help all humanity toward the attainment of the true brotherhood, and so hasten the time when the power of the Gospel shall bring all nations and kindreds and people under the dominion of Him who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. We ask all in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

AT UNFOLDING A CHURCH FLAG

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, sovereign Commander of all the world, in whose hand is power and might; we bless thy holy Name for all the goodness and mercy which thou hast bestowed upon us as a nation and people. Accept, bless and hallow now, we beseech thee, this flag of our nation which we offer for the use of thy house of prayer. Grant that all who look upon it may be filled with gratitude for thy

mercies in the past and with earnest purpose to do thy holy will for all the time to come. Help us to realize that the religion of thy dear Son is for public as well as private use, for the city, the state and the nation, as well as for the individual and the home. And as we grow in the faith of Christ make us better citizens, sure of thy calling and faithful in thy service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF A CHURCH MANSE

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, thou who hast shown such kindness and mercy unto us thy creatures that we dare to call thee Father, from thee go forth the bonds that bind together every family in heaven and earth. Look down upon us this day, we pray thee, as we set apart this building to be the abiding place of that most heavenly of all earthly things, a Christian Home. We would ask thy richest blessings upon all those who in the years to come shall make this house their dwelling place. Mayest thou be with them in all their joys and sorrows. We would beseech thee to be their counsellor and guide and the light of their pathway. Bless those of thy servants who shall be the ministers of this congregation. May they be men who shall have an eye single to thy glory. Let the light of thy countenance shine upon thine handmaids, their helpmeets in the work of the ministry, the sharers of their joys and sorrows. Bless, we beseech thee, those sons and daughters of the manse who shall dwell under this parental roof. And when they go forth unto the work of the world may they so live as to bring glory and honor upon the homes from whence they come. May the Christian influence of those whom this house shall shelter

be as a leaven unto the life of this community. May the blessing of the Holy Spirit be an ever-present reality in the hearts of all those who dwell here. May the influence of this home be as a lighthouse unto the heart-broken, the sin-sick, the discouraged. May the pleasures, the fellowships, the joys of this home be such as shall not bring reproach upon thy name and cause.

Bless, we pray thee, the sacrificial devotion and skill that has made possible this house. Grant unto these thy servants whose self-denying thoughts, plans, and toil have made possible this building the consciousness of a deed well done. Bless the congregation that these have represented. May their sacrificial labors redound to their own spiritual benefit and profit, and to the welfare of thy kingdom. We ask in the name of Christ.
Amen.

AT DEDICATION OF BIBLE SCHOOL BUILDING

1. O LORD GOD, who art the giver of all wisdom, and willest that children should be brought up in the fear and love of thy holy Name; pour down, we beseech thee, the gift of thy loving-kindness upon this place that all who shall be gathered together in it for Sunday School and other meetings may grow in thy grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Blessed be thy Name, O Lord, that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to build this school to thy praise and honor. Let thy blessing be upon them, their families and their substance, and accept their righteous and charitable work. Remember them concerning this. Wipe not out this kindness which they have done, and grant that all they who shall hereafter enjoy the benefit of this acceptable work may

show forth their thankfulness by rightly using it, to the glory of thy blessed name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. O LORD, God, who art the giver of all wisdom, and willest that children and young people should be brought up in the fear and love of thy holy name; pour down, we beseech thee, the gift of thy loving-kindness upon this place, that all who shall be gathered together in it for Sunday School, social and other activities may grow in thy grace, and be delivered from all evils of body, mind and soul. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF A PARISH HOUSE

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord, that it hath pleased thee to put into the hearts of thy servants to build this Parish House (Community House, Chapel) to thy praise and honor. Let thy blessing be upon them, their pious and charitable work. Remember them concerning this: Wipe not out this kindness which they have done, and grant that all they who shall hereafter enjoy the benefit of this work may show forth their thankfulness by rightly using it, to the glory of thy blessed name. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF SCHOOL HOUSE

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, graciously bow down thine ear to the petitions of thy servants; hallow with the might of thy blessing this School House, erected for the instruction of thy children, and vouchsafe the gift of thy grace to all who come to learn within its walls, that they may grow up in thy faith and fear, and

obtain remission of their sins. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF CHARITY HOME FOR CHILDREN

O THOU whose greatest name is Father, who for thy tender love towards mankind didst send thine only begotten Son into the world as a little baby for whom no room was found at the inn, bless, hallow and sanctify, we beseech thee, this Home which we dedicate in thy name for little ones who are setting out on the great adventure of living. Fill it with the sweetness of thy Presence, that gentleness and patience and tenderness and love may ever here abide. May those angels who do always behold thy face shelter and protect from harm all who enter here; and may thy blessing rest upon those who minister in thy name to all the little guests.

Bless those whose gifts of money and time and labor have made this Home possible, and raise up ever more and more friends to support it through the years to come.

Look with tender compassion upon the mothers of the precious lives which shall sojourn here and comfort and heal their hearts; cover their distresses with the shadow of thy wings and with thine everlasting arms lift them up into newness of life and hope.

Into homes where there has been loneliness, call from this place little messengers of light that by their innocence and helplessness and yearnings for love, that by their prattle and laughter and wonders of companionship, they may revive and renew the springs of happiness.

And grant that all these little wayfarers who come

and go may increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man and serve their day and generation the better because in thy name we have undertaken this privilege of service.

We ask it all in Jesus' Name, who once lived among us as a little child, who now calls us to enter his kingdom in the spirit of little children, and who now liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF A HOSPITAL

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, we beseech thy boundless loving-kindness, that as thou didst visit Tobit, Peter's wife's mother, and the centurion's servant, so thou wouldst vouchsafe mercifully to visit this Hospital, and to bless it with thy right hand, that thy sick servants abiding in it may attain health of body and soul, or that when any die they may be protected by the guardianship of thine angels, the messengers of thy love. We ask all through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL Y. W. C. A. HOME

O Almighty God, King of kings, and Lord of lords, who rulest all things in heaven and on earth, we adore thee as the giver of every good and perfect gift, as the author of all our blessings temporal and spiritual. We acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging to us; yet we beseech thee in thy great goodness graciously to accept and bless this Home which we now dedicate to thy honor and for the use of those who now or ever shall come to dwell under its roof and within these hospitable walls. Make this House

an abode of purity, peace and truth, and a place of restfulness, refreshment and of mutual affection and love. Watch over thy servants in their going out and their coming in. Give them the spirit of friendliness, of faithfulness, of spiritual purpose and ministry, and direct their footsteps ever in the way of thy commandments. Grant thy blessing upon the great organization of devoted womanhood, the Young Women's Christian Association, into whose hands it has come.

And we bless thy name also that it has pleased thee to put into the heart of thy servant to offer this Memorial of a noble and devoted Mother to thy praise and honor and to the comfort and wellbeing of other women workers in thy cause. Let thy blessing be upon him, his family, and his substance. Accept, we beseech thee, his generous and thoughtful gift. Give him abundantly of thy grace in the present life and in the world to come life everlasting.

Grant to us here to-day also, and to all who shall hereafter enjoy the benefits of this Home, that we and they may show forth true thankfulness by rightly using the same, to the glory of thy blessed name. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF A PIONEER MONUMENT

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; eternal and all-seeing God, beneath whose mighty hand unfolds the history of nations and of peoples we acknowledge thee and praise thy Holy Name.

The wilderness trail of the explorer, and the wagon train of the pioneer were not hid from thy sight. Thou hast sustained the woodsman hewing for his cabin,

and his brother breaking the prairie's sod. Thou hast heard the evening song of the host of pioneer mothers in frontier homes of poverty lulling their babes to sleep and the prayers of little children awed by the vastness of virgin forest and plain. Thou hast established the work of their hands. The faithfulness of one generation thou hast requited unto the next, and lo! we stand in this latest year rich in our heritage. O God, we thank thee for America! For all who have served thee in giving to us this new promised land; for those in each generation and every honorable field who fearlessly have pushed forward their endeavors; for the explorers; for the missionaries who with the gospel of the Cross pushed on and witnessed and died; for builders and for leaders; for all the graves of good men and women between here and Plymouth Rock; for the influence of noble lives wrought into the very fabric of our national life. Gracious Father, sustain us who have so rich a heritage. Our many transgressions in mercy forgive. Remember them not in the day of reckoning. May our thinking and our doing be the unfolding of that righteousness which exalts both man and nation. In prosperity save us from fatness of soul, and in riches from the temptations thereof. And when the last night camp of our pilgrimage is made and one by one we stand at the breaks, at the rim-rock of eternity, grant to us faith's sure vision of Him who explored life for us and left the trail of his footprints so plainly in human history; Who tasted death for us and mapped the valley of the shadow; Who waits to walk with us across the new land—the hills and valleys of eternity.

In the name of our Lord Christ we reverently invoke a blessing upon this occasion and this day. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF A DINING HALL

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who in thy loving bounty nourishest thy servants and sustainest them in this place of bodily refreshment; we beseech thy great goodness that thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless this Dining Hall, and grant to thy servants that, through thy blessing, they may receive meat and drink with thanksgiving, and at last attain unto eternal joys at thy right hand. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF LIBRARY

O GOD, we are told in thy Word that every scribe which is instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth out of his treasures things new and old. O God, the Father, bless this Library. God, the Son, let thy blessing rest upon it and upon all who come here for learning and for wisdom. O God, the Holy Ghost, Teacher who leadest all into truth, grant us so to give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine, and so to meditate in thy law, that we may be filled with the knowledge of thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

O GOD, the fountain of wisdom, bless, we beseech thee, this building now thrown open for the purposes of a Public Library. Stir up, we pray thee, in our people a laudable interest in the work. Deeply sensible of the power of literature to elevate or degrade, may we guard the avenues of our minds from the insidious influences

of unwise reading. Especially may our children, by our own example and watchfulness, be saved from the companionship of evil periodicals and books, from all that present false ideals of life, and from all that tends to destroy their innocence, their reverence or their faith. May thy Holy Spirit ever direct those who are charged with the grave responsibility of the management of this Library. With a vigilance that never relaxes, may they reject all that is offensive to good taste and morals, and introduce that which awakens and encourages what is best in nature, and is clean and pure. Grant that this building, because of the purpose for which it stands, may admonish us that there are other interests besides those that are solely commercial, and that, beyond its material prosperity, our land is favored and blessed in the moral and intellectual enlightenment of its people. To this end may all the uses of this building contribute, and in its own way may it be a constant instrumentality for good in our midst; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF NURSES' HOME

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, thou who hast mercifully promised to hear the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; we beseech thee graciously to bless this Nurses' Home which we now dedicate to thy honor and service and for the use of those who minister to the sick. Make it an abode of purity, peace and truth and a place of restfulness, refreshment and of mutual affection and love. Watch over thy servants in their going out and their coming in. Give them all the spirit of consolation, of gentleness, of faithfulness, of spiritual purpose and ministry, and direct their footsteps ever in the way of thy commandments. We ask through Him

who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF HOSPITAL

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, who art the author of life, of health, of safety; look down with thy favor and hallow with thy presence and benediction this Hospital that so through thy grace may be promoted thine own glory and the spiritual and temporal welfare of men and women and little children. Preserve us from doubt and impatience, from discouragement and discord and grant that all may work together as ministers in the healing art. Grant that the Great Physician may here minister at every pillow, and touch with blessed healing every sick and suffering soul.

Grant, O Lord, to the trustees, managers and officers of this Hospital full measures of wisdom, prudence and grace to order and direct its affairs in accordance with thy will. Bless the physicians and the nurses, and all the members of this household, that they may duly execute their several duties in thy fear and love, and seek only thy honor and glory, who didst take our infirmities and bear our sicknesses, healing all sinning and suffering humanity with thy most precious blood. All of which we ask in the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT DEDICATION OF SCHOOL OF MUSIC

O LORD and Father, who hast given to man every good and perfect gift, we pray thee to so guide those who shall teach and learn in this institution that they may do their duty with all their might and with all their heart and gladly consecrate their gifts to thee and

thy service. May teachers and learners alike rejoice in their mastery over the great gifts of music and song and contribute many happy hours to many people in the various stations in life, so that in every way the thoughts of both musicians and listeners may be turned in thankfulness and praise to thee. Bless every effort that is made in this community to encourage and maintain a high and ennobling order of musical culture. This we ask in the Name of him who came to make our life a song and a joy forever, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

1. ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, thou who lightenest every man that cometh into the world, enlighten our hearts and minds with the favor of thy countenance while we wait before thee this day. Let thy divine favor rest upon this school under whose auspices we are met—upon its faculty, its graduates, its present students, upon the members of the class graduating to-day and upon all their parents and friends and well-wishers. Bless especially, we pray thee, all here and everywhere who teach and guide the young. Grant them an abiding consciousness that they are co-workers with thee, thou Great Teacher of humanity, and that thou hast charged them with the holy duty of bringing forth from the budding life of the young the mysterious stores of character and ability which thou hast hidden in them. Do thou reward thy servants with a glad sense of their own eternal worth as teachers of the race, and in the heat of the day do thou show the spring by the wayside that flows from the eternal silence of God and gives new life to all who drink of it. Bless the cause of sound learning everywhere. We thank thee, O God,

that the sum of human knowledge is being increased. We thank thee that the sun of knowledge is shining and that the clouds of ignorance are being scattered. We bless thy Name for all that knowledge has done and is now doing for the well-being of mankind—in the spread of material comfort among men, in the prevention and cure of disease, in the promotion of good feeling, in social service and philanthropic effort, in improved manners, in refined living, in the advance of morals, in elevated tastes and in the emancipating power of the truth that delivers man from the power of appetite; that tells him to seek the pleasures of the mind; that teaches him to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and that bids him bring forth the fruits of the Spirit in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness and faith. Send out thy light and thy truth that with growing knowledge there may be greater faith, and so promote the holy alliance between the two that men shall not be satisfied with either an ignorant faith or an unbelieving knowledge.

Bless very especially, we pray thee, our Father, this group of young (women) going out from school to-day. May their lives and health and strength be very precious in thy sight. Give them, we pray thee, just as much of the good things of this life as they can bear and still keep humble and lowly of heart in thy sight and in the sight of men. We bless thee that we know thou art our Father and that thou dost delight in seeing thy children happy. May they be happy, especially in thee. And may they all be very useful in life, giving unselfish service to the world, causing good fruits, as well as beautiful flowers, to spring up wherever they may tread. We ask through Christ. *Amen.*

2. ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things both in heaven and earth; we invoke thy blessing upon the proceedings in which we are now engaged. May we all be duly impressed with the dignity and necessity of the educational work of our city and land. We pray especially for thy protection upon those, who, leaving their school days behind, are about to go forth to meet the sterner duties of maturer life. Let thy mercy ever be with them. Direct them in all their doings with thy most gracious favor and further them with thy continual help; and grant that thou being their ruler and guide, they may so pass through things temporal that they lose not finally the things eternal. And may we all as members of this community manifest an interest in speech and action toward our youth. Bless, we pray thee, our public schools, their officers, teachers and pupils; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

AT COMMENCEMENT OF NURSES

O GOD, our heavenly Father, who by the words and life of thy dear Son, hast taught us to minister to thy suffering children; grant to these young women, now graduating from this Training School, thy spirit and thy grace. Strengthen them for the duties of their vocation, defend them from the dangers which beset their way, and make them a blessing to those in need. Save them from proud self-confidence, and from shrinking timidity. Inspire them with a pitiful and sympathizing spirit, which shall make them gentle and kind in all their ministrations. Give them self-control and patience. Grant them the spirit of faithfulness to the order of the homes in which they serve, and loyalty to those who direct their service. May they abstain from self-assertiveness, vanity

and pride, and show a willingness to do cheerfully the humblest service for thy children. Make them to honor thee by the purity and gentleness of their characters, and the self-forgetfulness and efficiency of their lives. Strengthen them in their weakness, graciously answer their prayers for guidance, and in all their troubles wilt thou give them thy peace. May they have abundantly of their patients' gratitude and of the rewards of a good conscience for work faithfully done, and at the last great day of recompense may they receive from the lips of their Redeemer the blessed commendation, "Inasmuch as ye did this service in my Name, ye did it unto me, enter thou into the joy of the Lord." Grant this, O Father, for thine own mercy's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT INAUGURATION OF COLLEGE PRESIDENT

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, thou who lightenest every man that cometh into the world, enlighten our hearts and minds with the favor of thy countenance while we wait before thee this day. Let thy divine favor rest upon this institution of learning, upon all its faculty, its graduates, its present students, its friends and supporters, and upon thy servant to be inducted into the Presidency this day. Bless the cause of sound learning everywhere. And thou, O Lord, who hast commanded us to prove all things and hold fast that which is good, who hast told us to buy the truth and hast promised that it shall make us free, we thank thee that men are going to and fro and that knowledge is being increased. We thank thee that the sun of knowledge is shining and that the clouds of ignorance are being scattered. We bless thy Name for all that knowledge has done and is

doing now for the well-being of mankind, in the spread of material comfort among men, in the prevention and cure of disease, in the promotion of good feeling, in social service and philanthropic effort, in improved manners, in refined living, in the advance of morals, in elevated tastes, and in the emancipating power of the truth that delivers man from the tyranny of appetite; that tells him to seek the pleasures of the mind; that teaches him to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and that bids him bring forth the fruits of the Spirit in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith. Send out thy light and thy truth that with growing knowledge there may be greater faith, and so promote the holy alliance between the two that men shall not be satisfied with either an ignorant faith or an unbelieving knowledge. We ask through Christ, our Saviour. *Amen.*

AT A WEDDING

1. OUR FATHER who art in heaven, be pleased in thy great mercy, to look upon us, be present with us, and bless us in this sacred ceremony. Graciously regard thy servants, about to enter into this solemn contract as the ordinance of God. Make them duly sensible of the holy vows and responsibilities they are taking upon themselves. May they remember that thou, God, seest them. May thy grace make their motives pure, their hearts sincere, their purposes of faithfulness to each other and to thee deep and abiding. Prepare their hearts to receive and take these vows, not blindly nor carelessly, but in the love and the fear of God. Give them a holy and lasting sense of their dependence upon thee for thy blessing. Evermore, daily, constantly and to-

gether, may they seek thy blessing, and do thou in tender mercy now and evermore bestow it upon them, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

2. GRACIOUS GOD, our heavenly Father, we thank thee for the marriage institution: Thou hast seen from the beginning that it was not good for man to be alone, but thou hast found a helpmate, a companion for him.

Bless this couple who are now united in heart and in hand; as they have begun this new and untried life hand in hand, may they be permitted in thy good Providence to go hand in hand to the end of it.

Give them temporal prosperity and spiritual blessings, and may the love which has drawn them together this day, continue to draw them closer and closer to each other and closer to thee as the years go by, and when at length they have faithfully climbed the hill of life and their feet shall stand in the valley of peace, may they be permitted to go home to the marriage supper of the Lamb. *Amen.*

3. WE INVOKE thy gentlest blessings, our Father, on all true lovers. We praise thee for the great longing that draws the soul of man and maid together and bids them leave all the dear bonds of the past to cleave to one another. We thank thee for the revealing power of love which divines in the one beloved the mystic beauty and glory of humanity. We thank thee for the transfiguring power of love which ripens and ennobles our nature, calling forth the hidden stores of tenderness and strength and overcoming the selfishness of youth by the passion of self-surrender.

We pray thee to make their love strong, holy, and deathless, that no misunderstandings may fray the bond,

and no gray disenchantment of the years may have power to quench the heavenly light that now glows in them. May they early gain wisdom to discern the true values of life, and may no tyranny of fashion and no glamour of cheaper joys filch from them the wholesome peace and inward satisfaction which only loyal love can give.

Grant them with sober eyes to look beyond these sweet days of friendship to the generations yet to come, and to realize that the home for which they long will be part of the sacred tissue of the body of humanity in which thou art to dwell, that so they may reverence themselves and drink the cup of joy with awe. *Amen.*

AT A GOLDEN WEDDING

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, who didst institute the holy estate of matrimony for the mutual help and comfort of thy children; we thank thee that thou hast preserved these, thy servants, through fifty years of married life until this hour. We praise thee for thy goodness to them in making their union one of love, peace and happiness, and that through thy grace they have been able to keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made. Protect and prosper them, we beseech thee, through the years to come. Multiply thy blessings upon them. May they abound in love and bear together willingly the burdens of life. Encourage and sustain them in all godly living, and may their home continue to be a place of prayer, consecration and joy. Let thy benediction rest upon them to their life's end, and finally give them a joyful entrance into thy blessed kingdom: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PETITIONS AGAINST DIVORCE

Almighty and ever living God, who hast instituted marriage for the betterment of society; we beseech thee to arrest the tendency in our land to regard lightly and irreverently the marriage vow. Put it into the hearts of senators, judges, and all others who have the construction or administration of the laws of our States, to remove those features that make marital relations the causes of immorality. Bring, we beseech thee, the minds of the people to a higher sense of the sanctity of marriage, and of the enduring covenant made in thy Name. Give the spirit of charity, forbearance and forgiveness to all married persons, that through the various trials of life they may be faithful to each other until parted by death; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT A FUNERAL

1. ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, the consolation of the sorrowful and support of the weary, who dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men; look down in thy tender love and pity, we beseech thee, upon thy servants, this bereaved household, whose joy is turned into mourning; and according to the multitude of thy mercies be pleased to uphold, strengthen and comfort them, that they may not faint under thy Fatherly chastening, but find in thee their strength and refuge; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. O GOD, Merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath said, Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted: Under the shadow of thy judgments we come to thee, and acknowledge thee to be the Lord alone. Thou hast entered this house with

thy chastenings: Oh! be thou nigh in thy tender compassion to these afflicted ones. Bless thy sorrowing servants with thy consolations, which are neither few nor small. Convert them wholly to thyself, and fill their bleeding hearts with thy love. Make the night of their grief to be light by thy grace. Deliver us thy servants, we pray thee, from the bondage of our sins, that we may be free from fear of death, and be ready at thy coming. Yea, Lord, for Christ's sake, sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit, that whether we live, we may live unto the Lord, or whether we die, we may die unto the Lord; whether we live or die, may we be the Lord's. *Amen.*

AT FUNERAL OF CHILD

O MOST compassionate and loving Saviour, who, when on earth didst gather the little children into thine arms and put thy holy hands upon them and bless them, we commit to thee this little child which our heavenly Father hath now taken away. Be thou the tender Shepherd of this lamb. Carry it in thy bosom into the green pastures and beside the still waters of thy paradise among the happy company of the glorified children, and at the last day restore it to these yearning hearts, when the mystery of thy providence shall be unveiled from all faces. Hear us, O God, for Jesus our dear Redeemer's sake, to whom, with thee O Father, and the ever blessed Spirit, the Comforter, be all praise and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

AT BAPTISM OF INFANT

1. Almighty and ever-living God, whose dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, gave commandment

to his apostles that they should make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; we humbly beseech thee to bless thine own ordinance now to be administered and to ratify in heaven what by thine appointment we do upon earth.

O blessed Saviour, who wast carried as a child into the temple by thy most holy mother, and wast taken up in the arms of Simeon the Just, grant thy blessing, we beseech thee, to this child here presented before thee, the Lord of all. Amen.

2. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast given to these parents this dear child. Ratify in thy kingdom above what ministering in thy name we have done in thy kingdom below. Receive this child as thine own. May (his) life and health and strength be very precious in thy sight. May he grow up in the love of thee and of all that is good and true. Bless these parents and help them to live aright before him, setting a good example and teaching him thy way in all things. Bless all the baptized children of the church. Give them quick ears to hear the beauty of thy truth. Give them hearts that shrink from sin. May they early come to know and love and serve thee. At last may we all be brought as unbroken families into thy kingdom above. We ask in the name of Christ, our Redeemer. *Amen.*

AT A CONFIRMATION SERVICE

1. Almighty and most merciful God! We give thee hearty thanks, that thou hast called us to the knowledge of thyself, in Jesus Christ our Lord; and hast vouch-

safed to make us partakers of the great and precious promises of thy holy Word. We praise thee for the certain assurance that these promises are unto us, and to our children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as thy grace shall call. O Merciful God, we have believed the witness of thy Word. We have dedicated these children from their infancy to thee. We have sought for them admission to thy Church by Holy Baptism. We have taught them thy saving truth; and now that they have reached years of discretion, we come with them to witness their willing renewal of the sacred vows that bind them to thy Covenant. Lord, we beseech thee, help them at this solemn hour. Work in them both to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Make them sincere in repentance, strong in faith, steadfast in hope, and fervent in charity. Receive them into the communion of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and enable them to persevere unto the end, by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

2. O Lord our God, who hast chosen to thyself a Church on earth, and who hast promised to preserve it unto thy glory; Look down in thy goodness upon these baptized persons now before thee, who have been solemnly admitted to the full communion and fellowship of thy Church. Thou hadst already called them, by the promises of thy Covenant, which are made unto us and unto our children; and granted them the seal of this privilege of Christian birth, in the ordinance of Baptism. But since the weakness of their infancy prevented the personal and voluntary dedication of themselves, they come now to confirm the vows of obedience that were taken for them, to consecrate themselves entirely to thy service, and to beseech thee that thou

wilt graciously regard them as thy children. They have been taught, O God, to know thee, their Father, Saviour, and Sanctifier. They are persuaded that there is salvation in none other, and they desire to have part in the benefits of the sacrifice of Christ and his efficacious intercession. Accept, O Lord, these purposes of their hearts, and receive them into the communion of thy Son. May they love thy truth, and ever seek to know it more thoroughly, and to profess it more consistently unto the end of their lives. May they withstand all evil, renounce the world, its vanities and delusions, and live as the heirs and citizens of heaven. May the Sacrament of which they shall partake be accompanied with a fresh outpouring of thy grace upon them. Take possession of their hearts by thy Holy Spirit; and at last receive them with us into thy heavenly habitations, through our Great Redeemer and Advocate, Jesus Christ thy Son. *Amen.*

AT SETTING APART A DEACONESS

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, to thine handmaiden whom we have called to the office of Deaconess, the grace of perseverance in her ministry; bestow on her the gifts of wisdom and sound judgment, of simplicity and singleness of heart, with sympathy with those amongst whom she dwells and works, of ready obedience to all lawful rule and authority; of firmness when she herself is called to rule, and of courtesy and mildness towards all with whom she has to do. Be thou, O Lord, her guide in all doubt, her support in weariness, and her comfort in sorrow, that thou mayest be also unto her an exceeding great reward in the day of the revelation of thine only begotten Son. To whom, with thee and

the Holy Ghost, be all praise now and for ever, world without end. *Amen.*

AT ORDINATION OF A MINISTER

O Lord, to whom all power is given in heaven and on earth; Thou art the Eternal Son of the Father; who hast so loved thy Church that to redeem and purify it thou didst humble thyself to the death of the Cross, and there shed thy most innocent blood. And to retain this thy most excellent benefit in memory thou hast appointed in thy Church pastors, and teachers, to instruct, admonish, and comfort thy people. Look upon us mercifully, O Lord, thou only King, Teacher, and High Priest to thine own flock, and send unto this thy servant our brother, whom in thy Name we set apart and ordain, such a portion of thy Holy Spirit that he may rightly divide thy Word, to the instruction of thy flock and the overthrow of error and vice. Give unto him, good Lord, thy grace and wisdom, whereby the enemies of thy truth may be confounded, the blind and ignorant edified, and thy sheep fed in the wholesome pastures of thy most Holy Word. Multiply thy graces upon him. Illuminate him with thy Holy Spirit. Comfort and strengthen him in all virtue. Govern and guide his ministry, to the praise of thy Holy Name, the promotion of thy Kingdom, the comfort of thy Church, and to the plain discharge of his own conscience in the day of the Lord Jesus: to whom, with the Father and with the Holy Ghost, be all honor, praise, and glory, now and ever. *Amen.*

BEFORE ELECTING CHURCH OFFICERS

Almighty God, the Giver of all good gifts, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast appointed diverse adminis-

trations for the edifying of his Body in truth, holiness, and charity, mercifully look upon thy people whom thou hast redeemed, and, at this time, so guide and govern them that they may faithfully and wisely make choice of fit persons to serve before thee in thy Church. And to those who shall be appointed to any holy function give thy grace and heavenly benediction that both by their life and doctrine they may show forth thy praise and further the salvation of all men, to the glory of thy great name and the benefit of thy holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT SENDING OUT A MISSIONARY

1. Almighty God, who didst send thine only begotten Son into the world for the redemption of mankind, and that the Gospel of his kingdom might be made known unto men through the preaching of his apostles, send, we pray thee, thy Holy Spirit upon this thy servant whom thou hast called to labor in thy vineyard. Anoint him to preach the Gospel to the poor, send him to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And grant that he may follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

2. O Lord Jesus Christ, who shalt judge the quick and the dead at thine appearing and thy kingdom, grant that this thy servant N— may preach the Word, be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine, watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist,

and make full proof of his ministry, that he may obtain the crown of righteousness which thou the righteous Judge shalt give him in that day: who livest and abidest for ever. In the name of Christ. *Amen.*

3. O God the Holy Ghost, who art the Giver of all good gifts, mercifully bestow upon this thy servant the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and the spirit of thy holy fear, that in faith and love he may hold fast the form of sound words which has been committed unto him, and giving attendance to reading, to exhortation, and to doctrine, may be an example to believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity, so that coming again with abundant fruit from the harvest of souls, he may be counted with them who, having turned many to righteousness, shine as the stars for ever and ever. Who with the Father, and the Son, livest and abidest for ever, world without end. *Amen.*

AT ADOPTION OF A CHILD

O Lord God, Creator of the world, who in the first Adam didst institute fleshly kinship, and hast made us thy kindred through grace, in thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, look on these thy servants, who humbly beseech thy blessing, and as they have bound themselves to one another as father (mother) and son (daughter), united in thee, so grant that by perseverance in holiness they may obtain those good things which they desire, and be fitted for adoption in thee, to the honor and praise of thy holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT LAUNCHING A LIFEBOAT

O Lord God Almighty, who savedst Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water, who didst deliver Jonah from the sea-monster, and thine apostle Paul from the perils of the deep; bless, we pray thee, this boat, that it may, by thy help, assist in the preservation of human life, and that those whom it rescues may ever thankfully praise thy holy name. O Lord Jesus Christ, whom the winds and sea obey; who savest thy disciples even when thou seemest to sleep! aid with thy strong right hand the crew of this boat, that their toils may be blest and they themselves guarded by thee in all time of need; through thy mercy, O blessed Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest one God, world without end. *Amen.*

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